

## **MEDIA RELEASE GREG PETTY Independent Candidate Heathcote** **Independent Heathcote Candidate asks why Bundeena and Maianbar feel abandoned and isolated from essential basic medical and emergency services.**



**It didn't take long for Greg Petty to hear how government inaction has alienated these tiny seaside communities, nestled peacefully at the eastern extremity of Royal National Park. 'When will someone listen to their cries instead of just taking their taxes' he asks?**

A day at the Bundeena Markets and a chat with residents afterwards in the local park makes clear to the Independent Candidate how frustrated this combined community of some 2,500 residents has become.

Dr. Jilian Nichols represents the spirit and commitment to the community that is the twin villages of Bundeena and Maianbar. But this sole practice Doctor has to close her practice for one week to get a break because the absence of reliable medical emergency services in the area discourages any potential locums. The NSW Fire Service provide volunteer 'First Responders' for the Royal National Park (RNP) and its road networks. However, they are not able to administer life saving medication or transport patients to hospital.

Royal National Park Community Services spokesperson Tamsin Clarke has experienced the frustration of a services crisis. Petitions, letters, submissions and even a direct recommendation from the 2008 NSW State Parliamentary Inquiry couldn't help the area obtain a dedicated ambulance. The official Recommendation 37 from the Inquiry **"That the Ambulance Service of NSW provide a dedicated ambulance service in Bundeena, consisting of an ambulance station or a car stationed with 24 hour rostered cover"** has NOT been implemented to date. The townships and the surrounding RNP remain devoid of appropriate full time local ambulance coverage, despite the thousands of local and international tourists who visit the area each year.

Mr. Petty has lodged a formal request to ascertain if funds for a Bundeena Ambulance station may have been diverted to projects in other areas at the expense of the safety of the local communities and RNP visitors. Comments that the community must expect reduced services "if you choose to live in an isolated area" have not been well received by locals who live in metropolitan Sydney, yet for decades have lacked normal metropolitan facilities and services.

John Hatton, legendary corruption fighter and former south coast MP, says he has seen all this before. "MP's are to represent the people, not their Big Party Machine or a favoured few. A true independent will represent all issues, openly, transparently because there is no Party or Donations to answer to, only their public. I achieved many things in Parliament for my electorate because I fought for the community. Greg Petty will fight for your community using these same techniques and that's why I'm supporting him".

Mr. Petty stated that solutions also need to be found on important emergency issues including dredging of Fisherman's Bay and upgrading the boat ramp (as a Bushfire escape route), improved communication on Emergency evacuation procedures, more controlled burning, an alternative Audley crossing when the weir is impassable, and transport problems such as lack of evening services and the dangerous right hand turn merge lane at Farnell Road and Princes Highway, Loftus.

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