



Speech by

Mr T. MALONE

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

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QUEENSLAND AMBULANCE SERVICE

Mr MALONE (Mirani—NPA) (7.15 p.m.): Tonight I wish to draw the attention of the House to a situation in Mackay and surrounding areas in terms of QAS response times. One would have to understand that the prime responder for QAS in Mackay is in south Mackay. For that ambulance to respond to an area that would be just outside of Mackay could easily take 8 or 10 minutes depending on the amount of traffic on the road leading to what we call the city gates.

The responding ambulances to an accident, in terms of a call anywhere between Eungella, which is 70 kilometres to the west of Mackay in the Pioneer Valley, or up along the Peak Downs highway to the south-west to the coalmines, are at Nebo, which is about 110 kilometres away. I am getting a number of calls in respect of late service times in terms of delivery of ambulance services in all of that area.

One of the big concerns is the township of Walkerston, which is only about eight kilometres out of the city gates of Mackay. I have had numerous calls about time delays of up to 50 minutes for an ambulance to make the distance out to Walkerston. One would have to understand that anything west or to the south-west would be considerably longer. It is generating quite a deal of concern amongst residents, and there are quite a number of residents in that area.

It was an issue highlighted during the last election. I am disappointed to see that a review of the response times in that area was promised. I have not actually heard anything in respect of that matter. It continues to be of great concern to me. I will quote from one of the numerous letters I have received. A person by the name of Ian Hoffmann writes—

I reside at Ritchies Road, Pleystowe, which is 15 minutes from the Mackay City Gates.

On Tuesday the 4th of September at approximately 8.30 p.m. my wife was suffering severe chest pains in the heart region as well as pain down her left arm. She then went into an unconscious state.

I asked my 19-year-old son to phone an ambulance via 000.

He was put through to the ambulance, which rang out three times before eventually making contact. I could not wait any longer so I instructed my son to inform them that I would meet them along the road.

I never met up with the ambulance.

I checked my wife in at the hospital and then phoned my son to cancel the ambulance.

I have since found out that there was no ambulance available from South Mackay and I had to be dispatched an ambulance from North Mackay. This would have added another 10 minutes to the trip.

This is typical of a number of letters I am receiving from that area. It really is of great concern to me. I support the residents of the Walkerston, Mirani, Marion and Eaton areas in their endeavours to acquire an ambulance centre. They need a faster response.

Time expired.
