



23/09/2023

Subject: Fremantle Ambulance Depot.

Att: To whom it may concern,

I would like to bring your attention and raise public awareness to a situation that concerns the Fremantle community and surrounding suburbs.

I am communicating on behalf of the Ambulance Employee Association of Western Australia* and as a concerned paramedic with first-hand knowledge of the dynamics of St John Ambulance as the emergency service delivery provider that unfortunately has a focus on business needs as its priority.

For too long we have been told that SJA WA are the most cost efficient Ambulance service in the world (based on their volunteer model) however there comes a time where best practice and transparency must not be compromised by cost.

The decision to relocate the Fremantle Ambulance Depot out of the "city precinct" has not been made recently and the change in CEO and Metropolitan operational management were not initially involved in this business decision however they have not recognised or attempted to resolve the lack of resources in a very busy precinct (the standard you walk by is the standard you accept).

Relocation of Fremantle Ambulance Depot Construction was completed on the 1st of August 2019 to Keegan street OConnor, St John Ambulance had been aware for a few years now that the Fremantle council has requested that the existing depot building at 4 Parry street Fremantle be vacated, SJA had been in consultation with the City of Fremantle for an alternative site with no apparent success, the planning department at SJA then made a decision to relocate the "Fremantle" depot to OConnor at the very eastern fringe of the city of Fremantle (a distance of 5.7 kilometres but more concerning a travel time of greater than 7 minutes dependent on time of day and dependant on the priority allocation of the callout).

SJA "response time data" and "call volume mapping" completed 2 years prior to this relocation decision had demonstrated a need to have an Ambulance emergency service in the centre of Fremantle, the knock on of having a community resource meeting this need would have meant that SJA would meet this contracted KPI average across the metropolitan area, something they have not been able to achieve with any consistency for over 5 years.

The Fremantle precinct is one of the Metropolitan areas busiest locations for Ambulance calls and to move an emergency service and depot away from the population and industry is very confusing, unfortunately SJA data is very hard to access on call volume locations / response times.

Fremantle dynamics are varied and complex with potentially many reasons for the need of an ambulance:

- Tourist precinct with Restaurants, Hotels and Café's
- Night club locations
- Working Port
- Tertiary Educational Campus
- Secondary Schooling Colleges
- Busy operational Hospital with complex Mental Health facility and continuous transfers and internal medical emergencies.
- Social issues
- Aquatic Centre
- Future construction of new bridges
- Cruise ships
- Increasing population
- WAPOL and DFES Stations
- Ferry Terminals

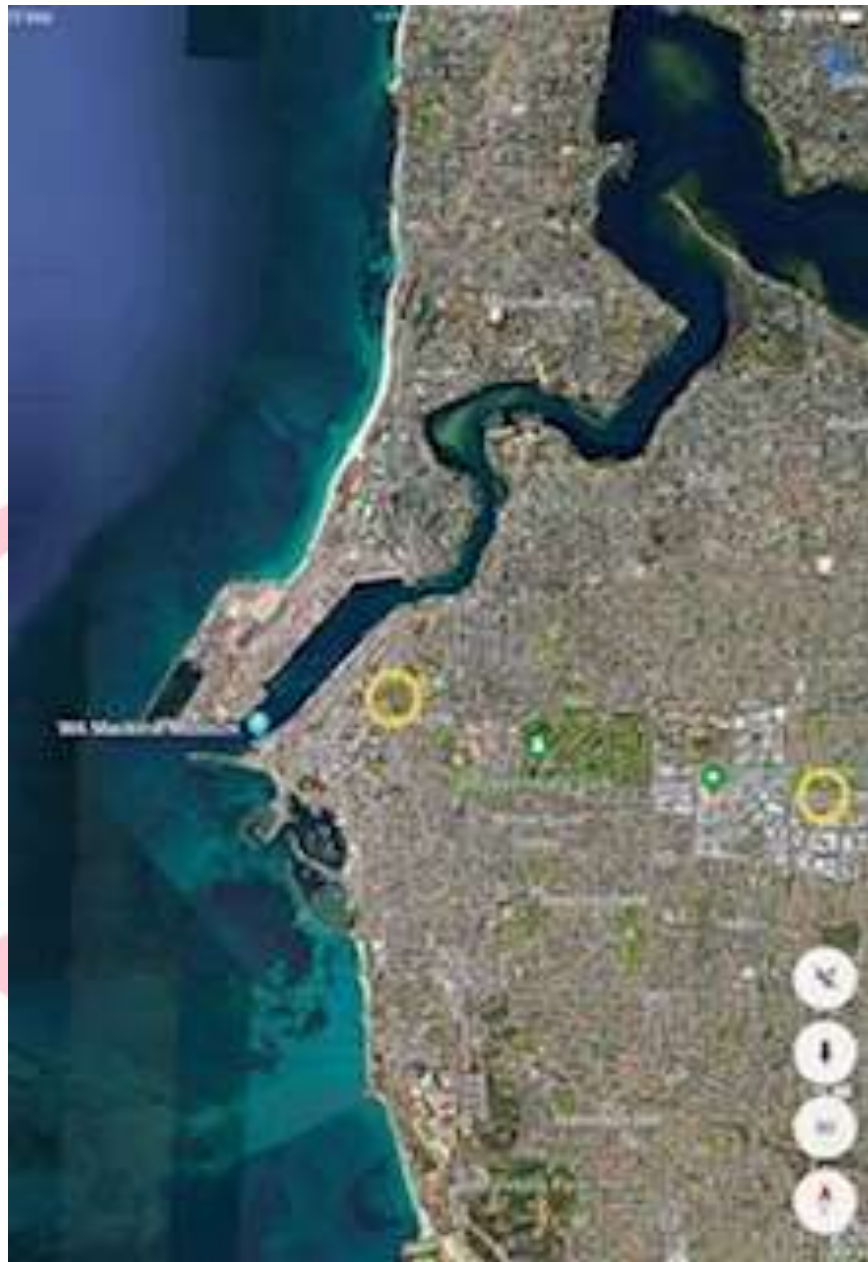
The community of Fremantle deserves to have had more consultation and a site surely could have been found that met the needs of an Ambulance depot in Fremantle and not an economical decision to move east of the Municipality altogether. The concerns for on road Paramedics are that the community of Fremantle is being neglected not to mention North Fremantle / Mosman Park / Cottesloe, the nearest SJA Ambulance depot in the Western Suburbs is Shenton Park (11 Bedbrook place Shenton Park), it completely astounds me that in an age where this organization demands best practice and transparency that little thought or consultation has been given to the needs of a significant population.

If ever the Health Department decided to have a government run delivery of Ambulance service model, I am sure there would be an Ambulance depot in the centre of Fremantle and if that is what it takes then maybe we need to highlight this message.

I guess the answer is not become acutely unwell or go into Cardiac Arrest in the coastal stretch west of Stock Road.

- Previous Location - 4 Parry Street Fremantle
- New Location - 4 Keegan Street OConnor

*aeawa.com.au



Google Earth graphic