

1.1. **Mayoral Minute 01/12/2025 - Fire and Rescue Portland (423) - Time is of the essence when saving lives.**

Report by Mayor – Councillor Cassandra Coleman

Commentary

Currently, the distance from Lithgow to Portland is approximately 20-25KMS. Despite being able to drive under lights and sirens, the delay from Lithgow to Portland still presents a delay in potentially lifesaving treatment for Portland residents.

The Fire and Rescue Portland have the capabilities and can be on the scene to administer initial lifesaving treatment, providing early defibrillation, oxygen resuscitation, and reducing rescuer fatigue, to provide high quality CPR or supportive treatment until an NSW Ambulance can take over.

Portland Fire and Rescue have an average Alert to Code 1 (which is the time that the staff are paged, to the time the truck is out the door of the station) of 5 minutes and 57 seconds.

Team 423 is not seeking to become community first responders, they want be utilised as a resource to the delay in distance that currently exists for an Ambulance to get on the scene.

All Fire and Rescue Firefighters are trained in Advanced Resuscitation and Oxygen therapy, and first aid as part of their training with Fire and Rescue NSW.

Team 423 explained to me at the Portland "Light the Christmas Tree" event on 30 November 2025 that they are passionate about their community and want to bridge the gap with a service level agreement within the memorandum of understanding under the LEMC or alternatively this proposal could be met through education to the local NSW Ambulance resources around the capabilities FRNNSW Portland have to be able to bridge the initial delay in potentially lifesaving care when a cardiac arrest occurs.

Attachments

Nil

Recommendation

THAT Council write to Minister for Emergency Services Jihab Dib on behalf of Fire and Rescue Portland (423) recommending that they are utilised as a resource in time critical accidents to administer first aid and defibrillation prior to the arrival of NSW Ambulance.