

**ITEM NO: 30**

**SUBJECT: PRECIS OF SELECTED CORRESPONDENCE, 30/09/2008**

**FILE NO: C00680**

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**Recommendation:**

*That the Précis of Selected Correspondence be received and appropriate letters forwarded where necessary.*

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**1. 21 August 2008 – Phil Koperberg, Member for Blue Mountains**

Noting receipt of letter from the Council expressing concern at the closure of the Maternity Unit at Katoomba Hospital (attachment 1).

**2. 28 August 2008 – Phil Koperberg, Member for Blue Mountains**

Noting receipt of letter from the Council to then Premier Morris Iemma opposing electricity privatisation (attachment 2).

**3. 10 September 2008 – Professor Steven Boyages, Chief Executive, Sydney West Area Health Service**

Responding to the letter from the Council to Reba Meagher, the former NSW Minister for Health regarding the closure of the Maternity Unit at Katoomba Hospital (attachment 3).

\* \* \* \* \*

**MP**



**ENTERED**  
DATE BY

F03480

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**PHIL KOPERBERG AO AFSM BEM MP**  
MEMBER FOR BLUE MOUNTAINS

21<sup>st</sup> August 2008

Mr Phil Pinyon  
General Manager  
Blue Mountains City Council  
Locked Bag 1005  
KATOOMBA NSW 2780

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Trim No.
Rec'd Records - 1 SEP 2008 BMCC
REFER <i>GM / P Pinyon</i>
REMITTANCE REC No.

Dear Mr Pinyon

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the maternity unit at Blue Mountains District Anzac Memorial Hospital.

Please be assured I am in regular contact with both the Minister for Health and the Sydney West Area Health Service regarding this matter and I am informed that services are due to be restored as planned within the original six to eight week time frame.

Thank you for bringing the concerns of Council to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Phil Koperberg  
Member for Blue Mountains

Attachment 1

FO 3480

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**PHIL KOPERBERG** AO AFSM BEM MP  
MEMBER FOR BLUE MOUNTAINS



**MP**

28<sup>th</sup> August 2008

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Trim No.	
Rec'd Records - 1 SEP 2008 BMCC	
REFER <i>Gm / P Pinyon</i>	
REMITTANCE	REC No.

Mr Phil Pinyon  
General Manager  
Blue Mountains City Council  
Locked Bag 1005  
KATOOMBA NSW 2780

*[Signature]*  
Dear Mr Pinyon

Thank you for forwarding to my office a copy of Council's letter to the NSW Premier, The Hon. Morris Iemma regarding electricity privatisation.

Please assure all Council members that their opposition to the proposal has been noted.

Yours sincerely

*[Signature]*  
Phil Koperberg  
Member for Blue Mountains

Attachment 3

Our ref: M08/6265  
Your ref: F03480  
Document Number: 08/075539

**SYDNEY WEST** | **NSW HEALTH**  
AREA HEALTH SERVICE

F03480

RECEIVED  
DATE

10 September 2008

Mr Phil Pinyon  
General Manager  
Blue Mountains City Council  
Locked bag 1005  
KATOOMBA NSW 2780

Item No.	
Rec'd Records	19 SEP 2008
REFER	GM P Pinyon
PERMITTANCE	
REC No.	

Dear Mr Pinyon

I refer to your correspondence to the former Minister for Health, the Hon Reba Meagher MP, concerning the temporary closure of birthing services at Blue Mountains District ANZAC Memorial Hospital. I have been asked to respond to you directly.

As you may be aware Blue Mountains District ANZAC Memorial Hospital (BMDAMH) provides a maternity service with its core business being to care for low-risk pregnancies and healthy infants greater than 36 weeks gestation. It has a role delineation of providing care across the pregnancy, labour, birth and postnatal continuum.

Blue Mountains Hospital is experiencing the nationwide shortage of obstetricians, anaesthetists and midwives and as a result has had to temporarily suspend birthing services at Blue Mountains Hospital as of 21 July 2008. These shortages are impacting on many other smaller maternity facilities outside the metropolitan area.

In response to these shortages Sydney West Area Health Service is currently investing significant effort into planning, recruitment and professional development strategies to ensure birthing services remain at Blue Mountains Hospital. These strategies include shared recruitment with Nepean Hospital and additional remuneration to attract specialists. Midwives are being supported in gaining additional skills by working some shifts at Nepean Hospital.

As you may be aware the suspension of birthing services was a temporary measure and the Unit reopened on 1 September. I sympathise with expectant mothers and their partners who were affected by this action. SWAHS has a duty of care for the provision of safe, quality care.

The maternity unit at Blue Mountains hospital did not close and all other maternity services including postnatal and antenatal care remained unchanged. Women were given the choice to birth at either Nepean or Lithgow Hospitals dependent on the level of care required. Following delivery, mothers once medically cleared were able to be transferred to Blue Mountains Hospital for their postnatal care. I am advised that positive feedback was received from women and their partners following their birthing experience at Nepean and Lithgow Hospitals.

ABN: 70 667 812 600  
Post Office Box 63, Penrith NSW 2751  
Telephone: (02) 4734 2120 Facsimile: (02) 4734 3737

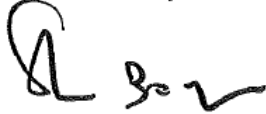
Providing health services to the communities of  
Auburn • Baulkham Hills • Blacktown • Holroyd • Parramatta • Hawkesbury • Penrith • Blue Mountains • Greater Lithgow

LH-001

Attachment 3, cont.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the Area's attention. Should you wish to obtain more information, please contact Ms Andrea Williams, Acting General Manager Springwood /Blue Mountains Hospital on 4784 6514.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Boyages', written in a cursive style.

Professor Steven Boyages  
MB BS PhD DDU FRACP FAFPHM  
**Chief Executive**  
**Sydney West Area Health Service**