



**Barbara Perry MP**  
**Minister for Local Government**  
**Minister Assisting the Minister for Health**  
**(Mental Health)**

**Roll out of satellite navigation units for ambulances under way**

**July 12, 2009**

Acting Minister for Health, Barbara Perry, announced the installation of new satellite navigation equipment in ambulances across NSW to assist with response times.

“Over the next few months, a total of 3,500 GPS units will be issued to frontline paramedics to enhance the performance and safety of crews when travelling to life threatening emergencies,” Ms Perry said.

“In particular, the GPS units will help cut down travel time when paramedics are out of their normal working area or are going into new suburbs.

“The \$1.2 million upgrade also includes the installation of a reversing camera which will greatly improve safety for pedestrians, especially small children, and reduce collisions.

“The implementation of Satellite Navigation into ambulance vehicles across the State follows a trial program of six units – two in metropolitan and four in rural areas.

“The trial provided the opportunity to establish training requirements and operating protocols for the units in double crew vehicles so paramedics will be able to hit the ground running with the new equipment.

“The installation of this satellite technology means the Ambulance Service of NSW will have the most modern fleet in the country. NSW also has the youngest fleet with no vehicle being in service longer than three years - the average age is 18 months.

“The NSW Government is working hard to ensure paramedics have the latest technology at their fingertips.

“With Ambulance NSW experiencing more than one million call-outs each year, our paramedics are extremely hard-working and play a vital role in supporting the health and well-being of our communities,” the Minister said.

“But it is important we continue to improve our ambulance services where possible to ensure patients benefit from the best care possible.

“That is why the newly established NSW Ambulance Research Institute will be conducting research into the distances paramedics travel, travel times and access to hospital services to help develop a state-wide retrieval and access plan.”