

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

DRAPER SLAMS BOUNDARY PROPOSAL

Member for Tamworth, Peter Draper today slammed the State ALP for its manipulation of the proposed local electorate boundaries saying they would create unrest among large numbers of residents of the electorates of Tamworth, Barwon and Upper Hunter.

According to Mr Draper, the ALP have proposed a number of inappropriate boundary changes which include the Gunnedah Local Government Area being entirely located in the Barwon electorate; the townships of Scone, Murrurundi and surrounds being brought into Tamworth, and Manilla remaining in Barwon despite specifically requesting to be brought into Tamworth.

“This is a typical Sydney-based decision, where there is clearly no understanding of the community of interest shared among areas such as Gunnedah, Manilla and Tamworth,” said Mr Draper.

“It is ridiculous to suggest that the people of Gunnedah and Manilla should travel to Wee Waa to see their local member, and both communities are very sceptical about their access to representation. Manilla in particular has publicly stated the view that their interests would be much better served by becoming part of the electorate of Tamworth.”

“In addition, the Great Dividing Range is a physical boundary that severs Tamworth from the towns of Scone and Murrurundi, which have always seen themselves as firmly placed in the Hunter. I would gladly and fully represent the people of these areas, but I’m certain they would rather retain their Hunter association.”

“It’s about time the ALP took into consideration the needs and wants of regional NSW when making major decisions about their representation, instead of sitting in an office somewhere in the city and drawing lines on a map,” said Mr Draper.

“Gunnedah and Manilla Shire Councils have already written very strong letters detailing their desire to be part of the electorate of Tamworth and I will be making their views clear to the Commissioners.”

“I’ll leave them with no misapprehensions. They will be dealing with some very strong willed residents and one determined MP if they try and pursue this boundary change,” Mr Draper said.

End release.

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