

# PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

## MEDIA RELEASE

12 December 2003

### **DRAPER PUTS BOUNDARIES BACK ON THE AGENDA**

Member for Tamworth, Peter Draper has submitted a strong rebuttal to the ALP's State electoral boundary proposal that would have seen Gunnedah joining Manilla residents in the electorate of Barwon, and Scone and Murrurundi brought into the electorate of Tamworth.

"With the support of Manilla, Gunnedah and Quirindi Councils, I have asked the Boundaries Commissioner to reject the ALP's absurd proposal as being totally in conflict with the community of interest that exists between the three Shires and Tamworth," said Mr Draper today.

"It is far more sensible that Gunnedah and Manilla, along with Quirindi, be part of the electorate of Tamworth, and that Scone and Murrurundi remain in Upper Hunter where their interests most closely lie."

"I was able to obtain statistical data from the RTA that proves that Manilla and Gunnedah residents travel frequently to and from Tamworth, particularly during the peak commuter times of 7-9am and 4-6pm. Manilla residents in particular have a high commuter rate with in excess of 1700 people travelling in and out of Tamworth each day to attend school or work, or to attend to other business," Mr Draper said. "I was also able to prove that no such situation exists between Scone or Murrurundi and Tamworth."

" Apart from community of interest arguments, the physical barrier of the Liverpool Ranges separates Tamworth from the Upper Hunter. I can't believe that the ALP would have even suggested such an inappropriate carving up of this area."

"I have made it clear to the Boundaries Commissioner that the ALP's proposal is greatly flawed and in my opinion politically motivated. I trust that the supporting representations from Gunnedah, Manilla and Quirindi Shires will convince the Commissioners that an electorate including these areas is the logical way to proceed," concluded Mr Draper.

[www.peterdraper.com.au](http://www.peterdraper.com.au)

Media Contacts: Peter Draper      mob. 0417 290 376      Electorate Office ph. 6766 1422  
Parliament House ph. 9230 2341