

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

BUDGET ROLLS OUT FOR GUNNEDAH

July 14 2004

Residents in the Gunnedah Shire will see improvements to roads, waterways and community transport in the months ahead due to key initiatives announced in the 2004/2005 State budget.

Member for Tamworth Peter Draper has given the Gunnedah Shire Council official notification of its share in the 2004/2005 State Budget of which the Tamworth electorate received \$30.1 million in capital expenditure as well as maintenance for roads, rail infrastructure and grants and subsidies for transport.

The Government will spend more than \$11.669 million on upgrading and improving roads, safety and travelling conditions across the electorate with the road capital and maintenance program for the Gunnedah Shire Council area totalling \$2,265,000 including RTA allocations on State roads and grants for regional roads

Some of the specific initiatives include:

- \$20,000 for a cycleway along Marquis St between Hunter to Barber streets.
- \$15,000 for a cycleway along Hunter St between View and Marquis streets.
- \$20,000 for a regional road block grant for traffic facilities and;
- \$13,000 to widen school bus pickup zones at three locations on the Oxley Highway.

Mr Draper has also welcomed \$1.5 million set aside by State Water for flood security and upgrade works at Lake Keepit.

The long term upgrade is considering meeting dam safety requirements for extreme floods, associated flood mitigation potential as well as improvements to address cold water releases, fish passage and environmental flows.

“The funding will go towards public consultation, the selection of a preferred upgrade proposal, an Environmental Impact Statement and detailed engineering design work,” he said.

Mr Draper said in addition to the Lake Keepit upgrade funding, a \$21,000 allocation had been made to improve the boat ramp at the facility.

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“The funding will seal 600m of road access to the boat ramp, extend the ramp by 20m and repair eroded sides which is good news for boaties,” Mr Draper said.

The electorate of Tamworth received more than \$5.175 million in overall transport program funding covering Waterways, Railcorp and Community Transport Program capital works, maintenance, and subsidies and schemes. Of that funding, Gunnedah shire’s community transport programs will benefit from an allocation of more than \$148,000.

The Gunnedah Shire Council’s Community Transport Program will receive \$45,193 to provide transport for people whose access to mainstream services is limited, while Gunnedah Home and Community Care will benefit from \$103,088 to help transport for people disadvantaged by physical, social or geographical factors.

End Release

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