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INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

Salinity a key factor in proposed residential development at Calala

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Salinity should be a key factor in the consideration of a proposed residential development in Tamworth's satellite suburb of Calala, Member for Tamworth Peter Draper said today.

The proposed Panorama Rd development of 42 house blocks was raised at a meeting Mr Draper held with the NSW Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, Craig Knowles yesterday. He also met with a delegation of concerned residents last week.

Mr Draper sought a meeting with the Minister on behalf of the Calala Residents Action Group who approached him with fears the development would exacerbate the already high salinity problem existing just below the intended water discharge area.

The group is drawing from a Salinity Report commissioned by the Lower Goonoo Goonoo LandCare Group, which showed the existence of high salinity in the area. They stressed the importance for planning authorities such as Tamworth Regional Council to ensure future developments made adequate provisions to prevent an increase in the problem.

"It would appear that Council is considering passing the development application without taking into account the management of salinity on adjoining properties, mobility of salt in the area, disposal of end water from the development, erosion, land degradation and impacts on Goonoo Goonoo Creek and on landholders downstream," Mr Draper said.

Mr Draper said in light of the report, it was important the development was viewed from an environmental as well as a planning perspective and the Minister had agreed to investigate the matter.

A recently appointed member of the Parliamentary Committee for Natural Resource Management – Salinity, Mr Draper, said he raised the issue at a meeting this week. He has asked the committee to outline the role of DIPNR and Catchment Management Authorities in the approval process for developments such as that planned for Calala. He has also asked the Committee to visit Calala and inspect the site of the proposed development.

End Release

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