

# PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Cleaners win deserving victory over 2005 NSW Government school cleaning contract**

*23 September 2004*

Member for Tamworth Peter Draper today congratulated cleaners in the Tamworth electorate and the NSW Minister for Commerce John Della Bosca for working together and reaching agreement on the 2005 NSW Government school cleaning contract.

“The resolution of this issue is excellent news for the cleaners many of whom approached me desperate with fear of losing their jobs; and for school communities which will no longer be disadvantaged by industrial action,” Mr Draper said.

A group of about 80 cleaners from across the New England north–west converged on Mr Draper’s electorate office during a rally in August asking him to relay concerns over the renegotiation of the contract, which relates to the cleaning of all Government facilities including schools and TAFE colleges, to the NSW Premier Bob Carr.

Mr Draper also received numerous letters from school cleaners, principals and P&C associations highlighting that cleaners would not be able to maintain cleaning standards at schools, jobs would be lost and hours and conditions would be reduced.

“I raised the issue in Parliament and worked with the NSW Democrats to pressure Mr Della Bosca into providing answers to these concerns,” Mr Draper said.

“After extensive negotiation, the Government has listened to the cleaners and their union giving a number of assurances which will see cleaners offered jobs on the same weekly hours as they currently work. They also have guaranteed offers of employment, no reduction in cleaning standards, and importantly, no reduction in hours across the board.

“I congratulate the cleaners for sticking to their guns on this issue. They had a valid argument based on real concerns and deserve nothing less than a guarantee on a job and hours.

Mr Draper said he would continue to monitor the contract process to ensure the agreement conditions were honoured.

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