

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

Draper Calls on Country Labor to Stand up for Rural Communities

22nd October 2003

Member for Tamworth has called on Country Labor to convince their Federal colleagues that an Ethanol industry is important in securing the future for rural and regional communities.

Federal Labor has announced their opposition to the subsidy for ethanol, effectively sounding the death knell for the industry should Labor win Government at next years election.

“ Country towns are still struggling under the effects of the ongoing drought, and this announcement could not come at a more inopportune time,” said Mr Draper.

“ There has been an enormous amount of work done in Gunnedah to progress the development of an ethanol plant in the area, and Federal Labor’s announcement makes it clear that the future of Gunnedah, its farming community and also employment in the area are of little consequence.”

“ If there was ever a time for Country Labor to stand up and prove their relevance in country areas, the time has just arrived. Country Labor needs to point out that the ethanol industry is ecologically sound, it delivers good environmental outcomes, and with farmers in the Gunnedah area facing dramatic water reform, the ethanol industry could well be their saviour.”

“ This decision by Federal Labor will hurt country towns like Gunnedah and Quirindi that are both committed to building ethanol processing plants. Country Labor must stand up to their Federal colleagues against this anti country policy shift.”

End Release.

www.peterdraper.com.au

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