

# PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

## MEDIA RELEASE

### TAMWORTH COUNTRY MUSICIANS TO GET UP SKILLED

*11<sup>th</sup> November 2003*

Country Music in Tamworth has won applause from Macquarie Street, with a cultural grant from the State Government, Member for Tamworth Peter Draper said today.

“I’m pleased to announce that the Country Music Association of Australia will receive a grant of \$5 000.”

“The money will go towards the Postgraduate College of Country Music,” Mr Draper said.

Mr Draper said the project would be the second training program of its kind.

“It offers a course to country musicians so they can learn new skills and techniques.”

“It will help address the need for ongoing career development for our country musicians – it gives them the opportunity to continually up-skill,” Mr Draper said.

He said the course would take place during the annual ‘Hats Off’ Festival in Tamworth on the June long weekend.

“The Country Music Association is vital in helping country music to thrive in Tamworth.”

“I’m delighted that it’s being supported with this funding,” Mr Draper said.

The Premier and Minister for the Arts, Bob Carr, said one of the aims of the grants program was to make sure people in rural NSW could enjoy the arts in their local area.

Hundreds of programs have been funded under the 2004 Ministry for the Arts Cultural Grants Program – supporting local dance, arts and crafts, music and theatre across the state.

End Release.

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