

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

28 January 2004

DROUGHT INDUCED HARDSHIP MUST BE RECOGNISED - DRAPER

Rural residents are suffering increasing hardship following the most devastating drought in decades in NSW and the impact on families is continuing to hit hard in spite of recent rainfalls.

Independent Member for Tamworth, Peter Draper, has welcomed a report by Charles Sturt University that highlights what rural families have known for some time – the drought's impact affects many facets of rural life, not just the household income.

"It's not news to our local farming families that the pressures brought about through drought cause ill-health and increased tensions within the family," said Mr Draper today.

"With both parents often forced to look for work off the farm, and children having to take on the work previously undertaken by farm labourers, it's hardly surprising that families are suffering."

"I'm pleased that the report identifies these problems because it puts more pressure on government, both State and Federal, to ensure that services are provided to assist rural families through such crises," Mr Draper stated.

"The recent rain may alleviate some of the immediate pressure on these families, but it will be some time before their lives return to anything like normal."

"The government needs to not only continue to provide wide-ranging support services to the bush, but also to comprehensively review the assistance provided to ensure that it is meeting the complex range of needs brought about through such devastating drought," Mr Draper concluded.

End Release

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