

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

Pockets of optimism in the business community inspires new confidence in the region

19 August 2004

Business and economic development in Tamworth and Gunnedah is under the spotlight with recent State Government funding initiatives providing a welcome boost Member for Tamworth Peter Draper said today.

Mr Draper welcomed support from the NSW Department of Regional Development to business enterprises in Tamworth and Gunnedah highlighted during a visit by the Minister David Campbell on Wednesday.

Mr Campbell announced assistance to Eco Carbons Pty Ltd, a new company to be established in Gunnedah which aims to be Australia's first large scale producer of clean charcoal products and power using non-toxic agricultural waste.

"The Government is funding the employment of an expert to develop a strategic business plan for a multi-million development that is expected to generate between 15 and 30 jobs," Mr Draper said.

Mr Campbell and Mr Draper also inspected a new exhaust and muffler manufacturing plant at Tamworth's Ride! Motorcycles where proprietor Garry McDonald has invested \$300,000 with assistance through the NSW Government's Regional Business Development Scheme exhaust to diversity and expand his business.

"The Minister's visit highlighted the fact there are pockets of optimism among regional business operators despite ongoing and debilitating market variables which they can't control such as drought and locust plagues. It's inspiring" Mr Draper said.

Mr Draper said the emergence of a new small business magazine, Regional Business North West, which was officially launched during Mr Campbell's visit in Tamworth this week was a further vote of confidence in business investment and activity in the region.

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“Dubbo couple Michael and Elizabeth McIntosh have acknowledged the strength and potential of small business operations west of the Great Divide in the production of a publication specifically designed to improve their networks and ability to share information,” Mr Draper said.

Caption: From left Regional Business North West Magazine manager north west Scott Sweeney, editor Elizabeth McIntosh, NSW Minister for Regional Development David Campbell, Member for Tamworth Peter Draper and sales manager Michael McIntosh at the launch of the magazine in Tamworth.

End Release

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