

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

Draper invites comment on proposed electoral boundary changes

August 3 2004

Member for Tamworth Peter Draper is urging community members to comment on proposed new boundaries for the State's electoral districts which are due for release tomorrow. (Wednesday August 4).

The State's electoral redistribution began in October last year when the NSW Premier, Bob Carr, appointed three independent Commissioners to oversee the process ahead of the 2007 State election.

Having considered public submissions, the Electoral Districts Commissioners have determined a proposed redistribution and will release their report including a statement of reasons for the alterations and index maps.

Late last year Mr Draper took the opportunity by way of a submission to the Commissioners to suggest how the Tamworth electorate's boundary could be redrawn.

"With assistance and support from the former Manilla Shire Council, I requested the Tamworth electoral boundary be changed to include the Manilla shire," Mr Draper said.

"In my submission I used RTA statistics recorded in 2001 which proved there were hundreds of traffic movements on a daily basis between Manilla and Tamworth. The data clearly supported the former council's assertion that a large number of Manilla residents worked in Tamworth and commuted daily.

"I believe it makes enormous sense for Manilla to be part of the Tamworth electorate given residents also travel to access medical, legal and Government agencies and schools," he said.

Mr Draper also requested that Quirindi, which is currently in the Upper Hunter electorate, be transferred into the Tamworth electorate based on grounds of strong community interest.

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The community has 30 days until September 3, 2004, to make comment, suggestions or to object to the proposed redistribution with public hearings set down for the Commissioners to consider any new material.

"I would urge members of the community to take the time to view the proposed changes and read the Commissioners' reports," Mr Draper said.

The draft proposals and full index maps will on display at council offices, local court houses and on the internet at www.redistribution.seo.nsw.gov.au.

Written comment can be addressed to: The Office of Electoral Districts Commissioners, GPO Box 832, Sydney, NSW 2001; or by email to redistribution@seo.nsw.gov.au

End Release

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