

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

NSW electoral boundaries redistribution process moves into final stages

7 September 2004

Submissions to the Commissioners overseeing the NSW electoral boundaries redistribution indicate a general acceptance in the north west for inclusion in the electorate of Tamworth, Member for Tamworth Peter Draper said today.

The period to lodge submissions in relation to the proposed boundary changes closed on Friday, September 3, with the State Electoral Office publishing the results this week.

Mr Draper said across the state a range of submissions were lodged to the proposed changes with a significant number objecting to boundary adjustments to the electorates of Lake Macquarie, Lismore and Port Macquarie.

Mr Draper said only two submissions opposing the move from Barwon into the Tamworth electorate were lodged from the Boggabri district through the office of the Member for Barwon, Ian Slacksmith.

While the proposed boundaries remove Walcha, the Tamworth electorate stands to gain the communities of Barraba, Breeza, Boggabri, Manilla, Mullaley and Tambar Springs, with no objections lodged from the other centres.

"Providing there's no need for any major adjustments, the process should be bedded down by the end of October after which I will hold public meetings in each centre to introduce myself and meet community members," Mr Draper said.

"I'm really looking forward to getting out into the new centres, further acquainting myself with the communities and learning more about the issues which concern them," he said.

Mr Draper has already made representations to Government on behalf of the Mullaley and Boggabri communities in relation to the Mullaley Boggabri stock route. The road was recently the scene of a fatal accident and the need for major upgrade has become a priority.

End Release

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