

# PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **RTA to act on Gowrie residents' road safety concerns over New England Highway intersection**

*24 August 2004*

Serious road safety concerns over an intersection of the New England Highway and Gowrie Rd near Tamworth will be addressed after a successful meeting between the Gowrie Progress Association, the Roads and Traffic Authority and Member for Tamworth Peter Draper today.

Representing Federal Member for New England Tony Windsor at the meeting, Mr Draper met association president Norman Alden, RTA road safety and traffic development manager Bruce Parkes and RTA road safety officer Terry Orvad at the intersection some 30kms south of Tamworth to discuss Gowrie residents' concerns over difficulty in negotiating the intersection.

"The progress association contacted me on behalf of the 100 or so community members who, despite travelling this road frequently, find it difficult to locate the turnoff at night due to poor signage, poor definition of line marking and the fact there is no turning lane at the intersection," Mr Draper said.

Mr Draper said in the absence of a lane, turning into Gowrie Road when travelling south was particularly dangerous as motorists were forced to come to a standstill in the middle of the highway.

"It's a terrifying prospect especially at night if you have a semi trailer travelling behind at 100km/h and you're waiting for a break in oncoming traffic to turn onto Gowrie Rd. It's only a matter of time before there is a terrible tragedy at this intersection," he said.

Mr Draper and Mr Alden were delighted with the response from the RTA officers who agreed to act immediately by altering line marking on the New England Highway to better define the intersection as well as erect a sign alerting southbound traffic to the turnoff.

"Mr Parkes indicated the situation would be remedied in a protracted three part phase which would include the creation of an escape lane and a turning lane on the highway," Mr Draper said.

[www.peterdraper.com.au](http://www.peterdraper.com.au)

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As the New England Highway is federally funded, Mr Draper met with the progress association on behalf of Federal Member for New England Tony Windsor. The progress association also asked for Mr Draper's support given his close contact with the community of Gowrie in the recent past.

Upon the community's request Mr Draper facilitated the return of the Gowrie district to the Tamworth Regional Council area after it was delegated to the Liverpool Plains Shire Council during the local government amalgamation process.

**Photo: From left: A successful outcome: Peter Draper MP met with Gowrie Progress Association president Norm Alden and RTA road safety and traffic development manager Bruce Parkes at the intersection of Gowrie Rd and the New England Highway today.**

Contact: Gowrie Progress Association president Norm Alden 6769 8269

**End Release**

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