

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

Watkins to inspect stations in Oxley Local Area Command

6 September 2004

The NSW Police Minister John Watkins will visit Oxley Local Area Command on Wednesday to inspect Gunnedah and Quirindi police stations.

Member for Tamworth Peter Draper asked the Minister to inspect the Gunnedah Police Station in the NSW Parliament last week and was delighted to see him take advantage of an opening in his diary to visit so soon.

“The Minister will inspect the newly refurbished custody management area at the Gunnedah Police Station but more importantly will see the work that needs to be done to bring the remainder of the station up to standard,” Mr Draper said.

“The NSW Police Department has already invested \$400,000 in the facility but a similar amount is needed to finish the project.

Mr Draper said the building was designed to suit policing in the 1960s with the layout failing to meet modern day requirements of officers. One wall still bears damage from a white ant infestation earlier in the year and the overall amenity of the station is poor.

The Minister will also travel to Quirindi to inspect the antiquated station which has been identified as a priority in the Oxley LAC for funding if it is to meet policing needs into the future.

“Police in Gunnedah, Quirindi and Werris Creek have been working extremely hard in trying conditions and I’m pleased to see the Minister prepared to meet officers and listen to what is needed to make the execution of their work more effective and efficient,” Mr Draper said.

Travelling with Mr Draper and Oxley LAC Commander Superintendent Tony Jefferson, the Minister will also attend a meeting at the Tamworth Police Station before returning to Sydney.

End Release

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