

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

Gunnedah Police Station left off the list

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The Gunnedah Police Station is a glaring omission on a list of 113 stations and residences the State Government is planning to upgrade in a \$1.35 million "spruce up" according to Member for Tamworth Peter Draper.

Mr Draper welcomed almost \$15,000 in funding the NSW Police Minister, John Watkins, announced on Monday to upgrade police residences at Tamworth, Walcha and Walcha Road. However, substantial work, and funding, was still needed to complete renovations at the Gunnedah police station complex.

Mr Draper said the Government has spent more than \$400,000 to alter and upgrade the custody management area in the station which should be completed by May 30.

"Local police are really happy with the new custody management area, however, there is still a \$12,000 white ant problem, a lack of amenities for the disabled, and cells, interview rooms and flooring that need upgrading," Mr Draper said.

Mr Draper said the front section of the station, which included the customer service area, not only needed refurbishing but had a serious white ant infestation that had attracted quotes of around \$12,000 to remedy.

"It's not a safe working environment for police or for visitors to the station and I have called upon the NSW Police Minister John Watkins not to leave the job half done.

"My preference was for a purpose built station but with over \$400,000 already invested in an "upgrade", I will concentrate on lobbying for the remaining issues to be addressed," he said.

Mr Draper has written to the Minister outlining the outstanding areas of need at the station and asked him to expedite funding to complete the renovations.

"I have also invited Mr Watkins to officially open the completed renovations and to inspect the condition of the remainder of the building," he said.

End Release

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