

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

Gunnedah Police Station renovations at top of Police Department's 'master plan'

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Member for Tamworth Peter Draper will push for approval of the second stage of the Gunnedah Police Station refurbishment after it was identified as a top priority in the NSW Police Department's master plan.

Mr Draper said \$700,000 in funding was set aside in the 2004/2005 NSW Police budget to overhaul and rebuild the state's substandard police stations.

"The funding has been allocated to finalise the highest priority sites for redevelopment or refurbishment and I'm pleased to see Gunnedah rightfully being identified as one of those," Mr Draper said.

"A completely new station would have been ideal but given the Department has already spent more than \$400,000 on stage one of the station's renovations, a similar investment to refurbish stage two should be sufficient to provide a first rate facility."

Mr Draper said the custody management area had been greatly improved, however, the front section of the station which included the customer service area, amenities and interview rooms, needed a significant investment to bring it up to standard.

He said the Department had developed its strategic plan to upgrade and rebuild substandard stations in consultation with industry experts Sinclair Knight and Mertz. The plan was submitted to Treasury as part of this year's budget proposal.

"It's my understanding that the funding will enable the Department to put the finishing touches on the plans for each station before moving into the building phase in 2005/2006," Mr Draper said.

"The Treasurer has indicated an estimated \$40 million will be available for new stations in the next budget so I will be pushing hard for Gunnedah to be given an appropriate allocation".

End Release

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