

# PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Draper Takes Minister on Over Gunnedah Police Station**

Member for Tamworth, Peter Draper, questioned Police Minister John Watkins in State Parliament this week over the futility of continually patching up the Gunnedah Police Station. The station was built in the 1960's and appears inadequate to meet the future needs of the Gunnedah community as the move to 24- hour policing gains momentum. The recent discovery of a severe white ant infestation has raised further questions over investing substantial public moneys in updating an unsuitable building.

Speaking in Parliament on Wednesday, Mr Draper called on the Minister to consider alternative venues for the police station at Gunnedah, specifically the government-owned building across the road from the existing site.

"The Minister has assured me that the Gunnedah Police Station, which is served by outstanding local police officers, is being included in an audit of stations across the state to determine its current and future needs," said Mr Draper.

"I am confident that with this audit the Minister will identify that the community is not being served adequately with the present station, and that the local Police are working under sub-standard conditions."

"In the meantime, the Minister has assured me that the most urgently needed facilities including interview and charge rooms, and a new holding cell for prisoners are going ahead and that the termite infestation is now under control."

"I will keep up the pressure on the Minister to ensure our local police are able to fulfil their duties in a working environment that meets their needs," Mr Draper concluded.

A Hansard copy of Mr Drapers question and the Ministers response follows.

End Release

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