

# PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Draper puts WorkCover on the agenda at the 2004 NSW Inland Forum**

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Member for Tamworth Peter Draper will speak on the WorkCover threat facing farm equipment and machinery dealers during an address today at the NSW Inland Forum in Wagga Wagga.

The NSW Inland Forum is a joint initiative of Dubbo, Tamworth and Wagga Wagga councils and rotates on a quarterly basis in the regional centres which collectively represent a population catchment of 128, 930.

The forum's objective is to present a single voice to Government on matters of mutual interest with attendees including the regions' State members, mayors and senior council staff.

Agenda items this year including the State Government's reduction in funding to the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program and corporatisation of the State's water supply.

Each member and council will address the forum with Mr Draper raising the potential ramifications of a landmark WorkCover prosecution case against a Wagga Wagga machinery dealer. The Authority is claiming the dealer, manufacturer and buyer of a second hand combine harvester, upon which an operator was badly injured, are liable for the accident.

Mr Draper met a group of machinery dealers and contract harvest operators in Tamworth this week ahead of the forum to discuss their concerns should the prosecution be successful.

"The Tamworth dealers are gravely concerned about the impact this case could have not only on their ability to trade competitively, but on the industry's viability. They have agreed to network with fellow dealers in Dubbo and Wagga Wagga to lobby the Government over WorkCover reform," Mr Draper said.

The forum begins at the Wagga Wagga City Council chambers at 9.30am today.

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