

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

Open door policy stands to benefit electorate

21st April 2004

Member for Tamworth Peter Draper was pleased to receive a visit from NSW Greens MP Lee Rhiannon on Tuesday to discuss important issues relating to the electorate including CountryLink rail services.

"It was good to see that as a result of lobbying efforts made in the NSW Parliament, Lee Rhiannon felt comfortable in coming to my office to discuss the issue of CountryLink among others," Mr Draper said.

Mr Draper emphasised the importance of building relationships with the minor parties as this was an effective way for an independent to deliver results to the region.

He was able to inform Ms Rhiannon he had raised this issue with the NSW Transport Services Minister and his staff on many occasions.

"Richard Torbay and myself are aware there is a high level of community support to retain the rail service and we are working on a strategy to put freight back on the Tamworth to Armidale sector," he said.

Also on the agenda were community transport services and the impact of the State Government's new 2.25 per cent sales tax on investment properties.

"I've been contacted by a number of independent retirees who are very concerned about the effects of the new tax and I intend on lobbying the Greens, Independents and minor party representatives on behalf of these people," Mr Draper said.

"As it stands when you buy an investment property you pay stamp duty, annual property tax, income tax on returns, capital gains tax on property value increases and as a final insult you are now being slugged 2.25 per cent on the exit stamp duty tax upon sale of the property.

"You've got to ask what incentive there is to invest in property," he said.

End Release

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