

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

16 October 2003

At the recent PACT meeting held in Tamworth, Member for Tamworth Peter Draper expressed grave concern regarding reports that the National Competition Council, which oversees national competition policy, has recommended the Federal Government should withhold some \$15 million from NSW unless the state increases competition in the liquor industry.

“ If this retrograde step was adopted, we could well see alcohol being sold from corner stores and service stations along with other additional outlets,” Mr Draper said.

“ The National Competition Council appears to want to see NSW adopt the Victorian model, where the number of outlets selling alcohol increased by some 25% in just 4 years.”

“ I believe we have sufficient existing outlets for community needs,” Mr Draper commented. “ The concept of having to prove a need exists before another licence is granted seems to work well.”

“ The recent Alcohol Summit identified many areas of concern, one of which was the abuse of alcohol by underage users. To allow alcohol sales in a vastly increased number of outlets would simply be irresponsible.”

“ The evidence at the Summit showed overwhelmingly that antisocial behaviour and opportunistic crime increased significantly as a direct result of increased extended hours from existing outlets.”

“ I am also already concerned by the number of people already disregarding the drink driving laws. To be in a situation where drivers could buy petrol and alcohol from the same outlet is fraught with danger.”

“ Victorian Liquor Stores Association President Peter Wilkinson was recently quoted as saying that if NSW deregulated to the same extent as Victoria, some 6,000 additional licences would need to be issued.”

“That is most certainly not the way I believe NSW should be heading given our current road toll and the number of fatalities where alcohol is a contributing factor.”

“ I call on the Government to reject this push by the National Competition Council. NSW needs to be strong in the face of Federal proposals that threaten our community safety and wellbeing,” Mr Draper concluded.

www.peterdraper.com.au

Media Contacts: Peter Draper mob. 0417 290 376 Electorate Office ph. 6766 1422
Parliament House ph. 9230 2341