

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

New vehicle for Manilla SES gets on the road

16 August 2003

The ability of State Emergency Service volunteers to respond to emergency services in the Manilla region was greatly improved today with the handover of a new SES vehicle.

At a ceremony at the Manilla SES headquarters in Station St, Member for Tamworth Peter Draper handed the keys to a Nissan Patrol four-wheel-drive to Manilla SES acting controller Stan Meadows.

The vehicle was provided through a joint agreement between the Tamworth Regional Council and the NSW Department of Emergency Services. As part of the presentation Namoi Division SES controller Peter Higgins handed over the Department's contribution of \$11,000 toward the costs of the vehicle to Tamworth Regional Council administrator James Treloar.

The seven-seat vehicle will be used in Manilla and Tamworth districts and will be on call 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week for any emergency situation be it flood, storms or assisting other emergency services.

Mr Draper applauded the contribution of the 16 volunteers at the Manilla SES who would benefit from the comfort, safety and improved carrying capacity of the vehicle as they worked to protect the community during critical incidents.

"It's good to see the State Government recognising the work of volunteers in places like Manilla which can be subject to the same degree of environmental emergencies as the rest of the state," Mr Draper said.

Mr Draper also welcomed the announcement of \$20,000 in State Government funding to help Tamworth Regional Council purchase a rescue vehicle for the Tamworth Parry SES.

Mr Draper also took the opportunity to inspect the Manilla SES's new purpose-built headquarters which would be officially opened in the near future.

"It's a modern, practical facility of an impressively high standard which will ensure the smooth running and effective response from volunteers to emergency situations," he said.

End Release

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