

# PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Timely reminder to State Roads Minister to find the funding for region's worst roads**

30 August 2004

Pressure is mounting on the NSW Roads Minister, Carl Scully, to commit funding and fix Manilla Road, Member for Tamworth Peter Draper said today in response to the publication of an NRMA report on the state's worst roads.

The State of Our Roads 2004 identified Manilla Rd in Tamworth as the worst section of road in north west NSW and also highlighted Topdale Rd near Niangala as being in need of reconstruction and sealing.

Mr Draper welcomed the report for the fact it lends weight to his campaign for the State Government to commit funding to Manilla Rd and more recently to seal an 11km section of Topdale Rd to alleviate dust nuisance and provide a safer passage for residents, visitors and logging traffic.

"It was hardly surprising to see respondents put Manilla Rd at the top of the list as it has been in a deplorable state for years. It's now subject to increased traffic pressure due to residential growth on the northern side of the city and its condition will only get worse," he said.

Mr Draper invited Mr Scully to the region in May for the specific purposes of inspecting Manilla Rd and Topdale Rd. Topdale Rd links Tamworth to the coast through Gloucester and features 11km of gravel which is the only unsealed section on the route.

"We got immediate, albeit interim results in the form of \$500,000 in the State budget for Manilla Rd and an immediate \$300,000 allocation to seal a 1km section and make conditions more bearable for the worst effected residents on Topdale Rd," Mr Draper said.

Mr Draper said as a result of the visit, the Minister had recognised significant funding would be required to bring both Manilla and Topdale roads up to standard.

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He said while Mr Scully had acknowledged the problem areas, he was now at the stage where Manilla and Topdale roads had to be prioritised over others in the state.

“This report adds weight to my argument that both roads should be at the top of the list and I shall continue pursuing the issue for the sake of making our regional roads safer,” Mr Draper said.

File photo of Minister’s visit available; Caption: Already on the list: Peter Draper pictured with NSW Roads Minister Carl Scully (left) during his visit to the region on May 21, 2004, to inspect Manilla Rd (pictured) in Tamworth and Topdale Rd near Niangala.

**End Release**

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