

# PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **State Forests pave the way from Nundle to Quirindi for new sawmill**

*July 22 2004*

Member for Tamworth Peter Draper has welcomed a State Forests allocation of more than \$900,000 to upgrade roads and bridges set to bear the brunt of increased logging traffic en route to a new timber mill in Quirindi.

State Forests, which is now part of the Department of Primary Industries, has budgeted to spend \$905,000 on roads and associated works in the Tamworth Electorate in the 2004-05 financial year.

The major single component of the planned works is the Oakenville Creek Road deviation at a cost of \$825,000. The work will remove a hairpin bend along the road leading to the Oakenville Creek Bridge near the township of Nundle.

Mr Draper said this would complement the replacement of the bridge and its upgrade to two-lane status to which the Department last year contributed \$80,000.

"The roads play a key role in regional transport infrastructure and are essential to ensure that major timber processing industries based on the State's softwood plantations are internationally competitive," he said.

He said the work was essential to provide a safe and efficient route for trucks transporting softwood sawlogs from the 10,000ha of pine plantation around Nundle to the new McVicar sawmill now under construction at Quirindi.

The new mill will also take product from the Walcha plantations.

Mr Draper said another \$80,000 was budgeted to be spent on general repairs and upgrading of roads and bridges along timber haulage routes in the Tamworth electorate generally.

This includes road works to improve access to the new mill which are scheduled for completion before the expected start up of the facility in October 2005.

The new mill to be operated by the McVicar Timber Group at Quirindi will process 100,000 tonnes of softwood logs a year and provide direct employment for more than 70 people at the mill itself and a commensurate number in harvesting and haulage activities.

[www.peterdraper.com.au](http://www.peterdraper.com.au)

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“It’s encouraging to see State Forests taking the responsibility for rural and regional road infrastructure which is being put under increasing pressure by logging transport movements. Roads are the lifeblood for remote communities such as Nundle and I thank the Department for the allocation,” Mr Draper said.

Mr Draper said he would continue to lobby the State Government for funding to seal Topdale Rd near Niangala which is also subject to frequent timber jigger movements.

Last month the NSW Roads Minister Carl Scully allocated \$300,000 to seal a 1km section and provide immediate relief from dust to residents after Mr Draper invited him to personally inspect the road.

**End Release**

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