

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

Pulling the perfect beer could be a challenge for Tamworth MP

26 August 2004

Member for Tamworth Peter Draper will try his hand at pulling a beer or two on Friday as part of the State Chamber of Commerce (NSW) and Australia Post Pollies for Small Business program.

In support of the week long program organised locally by the Tamworth and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Draper will spend a couple of hours behind the Sports Bar at Tamworth's Tudor Hotel. He will make good use of the opportunity to talk shop with new licensee Ron Hammond and his wife, Irene, who took over management at the Tudor on June 9, 2004, having moved from Forbes.

"The pressures are immense on small business operators to run enterprises which not only turn a profit but provide secure employment and safe working environments to staff. Running your own business can be extremely rewarding but it can also mean working long hours, battling bureaucracy and making personal sacrifices which aren't recognised until you actually get in there and do it for yourself," Mr Draper said.

"While I'll only be scratching the surface on Friday, I applaud the Pollies for Small Business Program as it gives MP's across the State the opportunity to try their hand in a different industry and gain insight into a variety of enterprises.

"It also provides Government with the opportunity to be educated about the business environment of small business owners and to identify potential areas where assistance could be provided," he said.

In recent months Mr Draper has lobbied the State Government over soaring WorkCover insurance premiums and changes to WorkCover regulations relating to the definition of wages, both of which are having a huge impact on the viability of certain sectors of the small business community.

During last year's Pollies for Small Business program, Mr Draper donned an apron to serve baked goods at Baker's Delight in Tamworth.

www.peterdraper.com.au

Media Contacts: Peter Draper 0417 290 376
Donna Hurley 0419 409 538

Electorate Office ph. 6766 1422
Parliament House ph. 9230 2341

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“I put my hand up as soon as I was approached by the Tamworth chamber’s general manager Max Cathcart for the program this year. I think I will learn quite a lot,” he said.

Mr Draper will be serving behind the bar at the Tudor from 12.30pm to 2.30pm on Friday, August 27.

End Release

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