

# PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Draper Questions Police Minister on Country Communication**

*21<sup>st</sup> October 2003*

Member for Tamworth Peter Draper has questioned Police Minister John Watkins in Parliament over the Government's plans to upgrade police communications in country areas.

" Given the vast areas patrolled by police officers in country areas, can the Minister notify the House of his plans to fix police communications in the Oxley Command within the electorate of Tamworth, and other commands in country NSW," was the question Mr Draper posed to the Minister.

" Having spent time on patrol with local officers recently, I want to be certain that their communication channels are the best possible," said Mr Draper.

" Officer safety is paramount, and a state of the art communications network is necessary to ensure that safety," Mr Draper said.

Mr Watkins detailed an upgrade of the entire NSW police VKG network costing some \$8.2 million, with \$1.2 million allocated in Tamworth to upgrade the Oxley, New England and Barwon Local Area Commands communications.

" I am pleased that the Government has recognised the important role that the communication network plays in ensuring officer safety, and I welcome the announcement of an \$1.2 million upgrade in Tamworth," Mr Draper concluded.

End Release

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