

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

Independents to target road funding for region

22nd April 2004

Member for Tamworth Peter Draper will meet with Member for Northern Tablelands Richard Torbay in Tamworth today to develop a strategy for securing State Government road funding for their electorates. The two MP's will attend the launch of the Community Colleges NSW logo in the Northern Inland Cluster prior to the meeting at Mr Draper's office.

Mr Draper said State Government road funding was slashed by \$50 million per year in the recent mini budget however there was still a significant pool of funds available for regional roads that he believed he and Mr Torbay could access for road infrastructure in the New England and North West.

"There is a pool of funding available and we intend to develop a strategy to secure a reasonable proportion of that money," Mr Draper said.

"Mr Torbay and myself will be working co-operatively together to put a strong case to the NSW Roads Minister Carl Scully outlining the region's requirements."

"We want to make sure this area gets equitable access to the remaining road funding," he said.

Mr Draper said Manilla Rd remains at the top of his list of priorities.

"Manilla Rd, a main road into Tamworth, is nothing short of a disgrace in terms of its condition and the period of time residents and visitors have had to contend with its appalling condition".

"It simply can't be ignored and will be one of the carriageways which will be a major consideration in the development of this strategy," he said.

Mr Draper and Mr Torbay will be available for interview in relation to the strategy at Mr Draper's electorate office at 12.30pm today.

End Release

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