

# PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

## MEDIA RELEASE

### DRAPER CALLS ON MINISTER KNOWLES TO SAVE KILLARA FEEDLOT

*5<sup>th</sup> April 2004*

Last Friday in Parliament, Member for Tamworth Peter Draper informed his Parliamentary colleagues about the plight facing Killara Feedlot near Quirindi. Killara is licensed for 20,000 cattle; it employs 29 staff directly and injects some \$9.5 million into the local economy. Scone and Tamworth abattoirs rely heavily on Killara for stock, yet Killara is facing closure.

Killara requires a minimum 1500 megalitres of water each year just to meet its required EPA guidelines. Under the Namoi Valley water sharing plans it appears Killara will be reduced to around 510 megalitres. Having invested over \$15 million in the site already, Elders would be forced to close the operation should the water allocation be reduced to 510 megalitres.

"I secured a meeting between Elders, the local Killara management and Minister Knowles recently and the Minister expressed support for this vitally important rural enterprise," Mr Draper said.

"As each day passes without advice that Killara should and will be treated as an industrial water user, the management grow more concerned for the future," Mr Draper continued.

"At present Killara is being considered as though they simply grew lucerne – not cattle," Mr Draper commented. "The Minister must recognise this business as an industrial water user and move to keep the employees in jobs."

"Other large feedlots in NSW that are owned by overseas companies are recognised as industrial users and their allocation is secure, yet this Australian owned company is facing closure."

"I hope the Minister can differentiate Killara from other users, and move to secure their future through allocating a high security industrial license to this business," Mr Draper concluded.

(A copy of Mr Draper's speech to the Parliament follows.)

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