

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

July 2007 deadline should assist hoteliers’ adjustment to smoking ban in licensed premises

12 October 2004

Member for Tamworth Peter Draper has welcomed Premier Bob Carr’s announcement of a date to ban smoking in enclosed spaces within NSW clubs and pubs stating it gives hoteliers certainty.

The Premier today stated that smoking would be banned from enclosed spaces within pubs, clubs and other licensed premises in NSW from July 1, 2007.

Mr Draper recently called on the NSW Government to provide hoteliers with a timetable for the smoking ban to enable adjustment to trade, staff management and facilities after the NSW Joint Working Group for Smoke-free Premises failed to reach agreement on a timetable for a phased-in introduction or final date for a ban to be enacted.

“In recent weeks I have been approached by hoteliers who were concerned they would not be given enough time to address the social needs of smokers and non-smokers nor the time to adapt their businesses to the ban which was widely accepted as being inevitable in NSW,” he said.

Mr Draper felt the introduction of bans in hotels would be better achieved with a gradual and staged implementation with July 1, 2007 providing a realistic lead time of three years. He pointed to the fact that smoking was already banned in hotel dining areas and at all bar and service counters with reforms introduced voluntarily by the hotel industry.

“This move will be welcomed by the wider community and although I support the ban, it’s important that jobs and businesses in country areas do not suffer as a side effect. I welcome the fact the Government has opted for a gradual rather than a big stick approach which I hope will settle industry nerves,” he said.

End Release

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