

# PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **TAFE review leaves teachers, staff and students out of the loop**

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Member for Peter Draper has criticised the length of time the results of a New England Institute of TAFE internal structural review has taken to become public knowledge.

Mr Draper said he understood the review process which began two years ago was based on the Institute's "need to embrace technological advances" and to accommodate the 12.5 per cent of students who studied TAFE courses externally.

"The outcome of this review will be announced tomorrow but there has been speculation and mixed messages over significant job losses across all campuses for the past week," Mr Draper said.

He said the news broke when the Public Service Association claimed the Institute would "slash jobs at all campuses" with up to 30 positions across the region likely to go.

"Whether or not this actually happens, the fact is education has been used as a pawn, leaving teachers, staff and students forgotten in the process," he said.

"The Institute is obligated to ensure staff and students can access information which may or may not affect their future and they should get it sooner rather than later.

Mr Draper said he would be actively working to ensure teaching roles were not affected by structural change and to create more learning opportunities for students through the provision of additional places and a wider variety of courses.

"There is a recognised skills shortage across the district, TAFE should be focusing on addressing this by providing specific courses," he said.

**End Release**

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