

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

Privatisation of Timber Industry

15th October, 2003

Independent Member for Tamworth Peter Draper has asked Minister Assisting the Minister for Natural Resources (Forests) Michael Costa to reveal details of any plans to privatise timber plantations within the electorate of Tamworth.

“There is a lot of speculation about the possible sell-off of timber plantations around the state. I have asked Mr Costa to explain those plans and any impact on our electorate,” Mr Draper said.

“The timber industry employs dozens and dozens of people in the electorate, particularly in the Walcha, Nundle and Pilliga Forest areas. Employers have a right to know what impact any privatisation of plantations will have on their operations.”

“I have asked the Minister to consult with the industry prior to considering any move to sell-off plantations in our area. Timber is the lifeblood of a number of our small communities and we cannot risk their livelihoods.”

“The Government needs to have an open discussion regarding the pros and cons in any move to privatise timber plantations. Having consultants prepare reports without involving stakeholders can only create suspicion and uncertainty,” Mr Draper said.”

“If the Government is considering privatisation as a serious option, surely open consultation with stakeholders, councils and interested members of the public makes sense.”

www.peterdraper.com.au

Media Contacts: Peter Draper mob. 0417 290 376 Electorate Office ph. 6766 1422
Parliament House ph. 9230 2341