

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

Topdale Road makes impression on Minister

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Member for Tamworth Peter Draper was delighted with the NSW Roads Minister Carl Scully's response the condition of Topdale Rd near Niangala after a visit on Friday.

Mr Draper asked Mr Scully to travel to the site and inspect 11km of gravel on Topdale Rd which is not only a traffic hazard but is causing a severe dust nuisance to nearby residents.

"The Minister had the opportunity to drive along the road, speak directly to residents on site and experience what it's like to be blanketed in dust by passing log trucks," Mr Draper said.

"After seeing first hand the dangerous nature of the road and hearing how the dust levels are impacting so severely on the lives of local residents, Mr Scully was convinced that the Government needed to assist Walcha Council to provide the funding needed to seal the road," he said.

Mr Draper thanked the residents of Topdale Rd who presented a petition asking for an upgrade that carried 931 names, and also for turning out in force to ensure the Minister was fully briefed on the issues and personally express the concerns of the community.

"Many residents took the opportunity to tell the Minister how the dust is making their lives a misery and how they fear for the safety of their children who have to travel by school bus on the road," Mr Draper said.

"A representative from the heavy vehicle transport industry was also on hand to inform the Minister that residents could expect an additional 20 truck movements a week when saw-milling activity increases in the area."

Mr Draper said the Walcha Shire Council's commitment to contribute to the costs of sealing the road would go a long way in ensuring the Minister would find funding sooner rather than later.

"It was encouraging to hear Mr Scully tell the residents it was obvious the road needed to be sealed, and it is now a matter of keeping the pressure on him as he considers the importance of this road against other road priorities throughout the state," Mr Draper said.

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