

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

Delegation to fast track Walcha Multi Purpose Service

May 19 2004

Member for Tamworth Peter Draper will ask the NSW Health Minister to fast track the development of the Walcha Multi Purpose Service when he takes a delegation to Sydney tomorrow.

Walcha community leaders including mayor Bill Heazlett, general manager Jack O'Hara and environmental services director Gerry Moran will accompany Mr Draper to meet Minister Morris Iemma and discuss the progress of the proposed \$8.8 million facility.

Mr Draper said he would ask the Minister to honour the commitment made by the Premier at the Labour State Conference last year that tenders for the new MPS would be called by "mid" this year.

"On October 5, last year the State Government announced the creation of a Health Super Growth Fund which would allow tenders for the Walcha MPS, among five others, to be called by the middle of this year.

"This would enable the facility to be up and running by the end of 2006," Mr Draper said.

"I facilitated the meeting to bring Walcha's community leaders to the Minister so they could put their case forward and ensure the tender process is not deferred.

"It's vital Walcha Shire Council is able to call for tenders as soon as possible to ensure there aren't delays in securing a builder and to meet the completion target date in 2006.

The proposed MPS is a sorely needed improvement to Walcha's health services with eight acute beds, one special care and 18 aged care beds.

It also features an emergency department, community health services as well as pathology, physiotherapy, imaging, x-ray and dental health facilities.

End Release

www.peterdraper.com.au

Media Contacts: Peter Draper 0417 290 376 Electorate Office ph. 6766 1422
Donna Hurley 0419 409 538 Parliament House ph. 9230 2341