

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

Better than expected result for Walcha MPS

May 20 2004

Walcha is set to have its brand new hospital by the end of 2006 after a meeting between the Member for Tamworth Peter Draper, community leaders and the NSW Health Minister today.

Mr Draper was delighted to report the State Government was not only "100 per cent behind the project" but had agreed to contribute an additional \$900,000 toward building costs after meeting with the delegation in Sydney.

"The original estimate for the Walcha Multi Purpose Service was \$8.9 million, and even though that figure has risen to \$9.8 million, the Government is still prepared to back the project," Mr Draper said.

Mr Draper, Walcha Shire Council mayor Bill Heazlett, general manager Jack O'Hara and environmental services director Gerry Moran sought a meeting with the Minister, Morris Iemma, after it became apparent the first steps toward the proposed MPS might be deferred.

"There was concern the timetable for the tender process might be delayed," Mr Draper said.

Mr Draper said the Minister had assured the delegation the Walcha MPS would remain on its current timetable and would be a reality by the end of 2006.

"The Minister has spoken to the relevant people in his department and the plan is to get the project up and running as quickly as possible," Mr Draper said.

"Council has approved the Development Application and sorted out the heritage issues, all that's left now is for the New England Area Health Service to get the documents organised and call for tenders," he said.

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