

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

Opportunity for Tamworth to host 'Who Cares about the Environment?' seminar

11 October 2004

Tamworth has the opportunity to host a free interactive seminar on what stakeholders, consumers and the community think about the environment providing there is sufficient community interest, Member for Tamworth Peter Draper said today.

Aimed at community groups, the business sector and state/local government agencies, the 'Who Cares about the Environment?' seminar program details the latest social research conducted by the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation.

The research is a ten-year study of attitudes and behaviours in NSW with nine out of ten residents rating the environment as the third most important priority in their lives behind family and friends.

Mr Draper contacted the Department after centres in the New England North West were not included on an itinerary of seminars held earlier this year.

"The Federal election has demonstrated how critical the issue of environmental management has become for the community at large and how deeply people care about striking a balance between human endeavour and conservation of the natural environment," Mr Draper said.

Mr Draper said the information would be of use to local and state agencies, businesses, community groups, social researchers, people who were passionate about the natural environment and journalists seeking the latest news about environmental impacts and community attitudes.

"The Department has indicated it is prepared to stage a seminar in Tamworth provided there is a quorum of interest stakeholders," he said.

"I am therefore asking anyone who is interested in the research to contact my office and should numbers be sufficient, I will facilitate a seminar in Tamworth."

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Mr Draper said the research revealed:

- where the environment fits in with current community concerns;
- whether people are willing to pay for problems to be fixed;
- how strict the community wants regulation to be;
- who NSW trusts on environmental information;
- who the community wants to see taking action; and
- what people are doing to protect the environment in their everyday lives.

“The Department declined to stage the seminars in the region due to the perception of a lack of interest, however, it is prepared to send presenter, Mr Geoff Young, to Tamworth if demand is evident,” Mr Draper said.

Mr Young has managed the triennial ‘Who Cares About the Environment?’ research surveys since 1994 and manages major environmental campaigns such as Don’t Be a Tosser, Our Environment – It’s a Living Thing and The Drain is Just for Rain.

Interested parties should contact Mr Draper’s office at 13 Fitzroy St, by phoning: 6766 1422; or emailing: tamworth@parliament.nsw.gov.au

End Release

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