

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

National Livestock & Equine Centre

3rd September 2003

Independent Member for Tamworth Peter Draper has questioned Minister for Regional Development David Campbell over the State Government commitment to the proposed National Equine and Livestock Centre in Tamworth.

“My question is to the Minister for Regional Development, Minister for the Illawarra and Minister for Small Business. Will the Minister advise what is the latest information regarding the State Government previous public commitment to \$3.25 million in funding for the proposed National Equine and Livestock Centre in Tamworth,” Mr Draper asked.

In his reply, the Minister said:

“In December 2001, the NSW State Government publicly committed to \$3.25 million in funding for the project, subject to a matching contribution from the Federal Government. Once again the Federal Government has ignored the New England and North West.”

The Minister also stated, “We have worked with the Tamworth community who are still keen to develop this proposal but any development is subject to money being provided by the Commonwealth.”

Mr Draper has called on the Federal Government to reconsider their position on this project and to support this significant industry in Tamworth.

“It is clear that there is still \$3.25 million dollars on the table from the State Government. The Minister has indicated he wants matching funding from the Commonwealth to ensure the project can proceed.”

“The original concept has been completely reworked by the industry, and the Industry have shown their full commitment by indicating they will be investing their own money in the project. The original proposal lacked this very important commitment.”

“Many key players are willing to locate their headquarters in the National Equine Centre in Tamworth, and other related organisations have already indicated their interest as well.”

“I have requested a meeting with Premier Carr, so industry, business and tourism representatives from Tamworth can put forward the new proposal for his consideration.”

“I also call on the Federal Government to support the equine and livestock industry. If they are serious about regional development, a project such as this deserves their backing.”

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