

# PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Better Fire Protection

*11<sup>th</sup> August 2003*

Independent Member for Tamworth Peter Draper has welcomed NSW Government reforms to better protect landholders from bushfires.

Premier Bob Carr announced the reforms, which will allow for better co-operation between the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS), the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and landholders for hazard reduction burns.

The RFS and NPWS recently signed an agreement that will see the two organisations work closely to share resources and bushfire management skills.

“It is good to see that the Government has recognised what is a major problem in protecting landholders from bushfires. We hear all too often during the fire season that some disasters could be avoided if hazard reduction burns were improved,” Mr Draper said.

“During the last bushfire season, many landholders were concerned at the lack of fire management and hazard reduction burns in national parks. Landholders must be given the opportunity to work closely with the RFS and NPWS to protect their livelihoods.”

“In the past, the National Parks and Wildlife Service have poorly managed hazard reduction burns. Hopefully, this will provide better protection for landholders from bushfires.”

“I applaud the efforts of the NSW Government to better manage the fire risk in our national parks, but I hope this will be viewed as only the first step in developing a long term and sustainable management process.”

[www.peterdraper.com.au](http://www.peterdraper.com.au)

Media Contacts: Peter Draper mob. 0417 290 376 Electorate Office ph. 6766 1422  
Shannon Most mob. 0402 13 99 11 Parliament House ph. 9230 2341