

PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEDIA RELEASE

NSW Clubs under threat

15th July 2003

Independent Member for Tamworth Peter Draper has criticised the NSW Government for its decision to slug clubs around NSW with an increased tax on poker machines.

Mr Draper met with representatives from clubs across the district today and fears the new tax will impact heavily on clubs within the Electorate of Tamworth. The meeting expressed the view that the tax increase will push many smaller clubs into financial difficulty and impact on their ability to retain employees as well as contribute to community activities.

“The NSW Government has either got its sums wrong or simply don’t care about the consequences of increasing taxes. Our clubs will be hit hard and some in our smaller communities may be forced to fold due to this unheralded grab for cash,” Mr Draper said.

“This tax will only hurt many of our small communities already struggling to stay alive. If our clubs close, we lose jobs and the fabric of our communities will be irreversibly altered.”

“The Government needs to have a good look at the real consequences of this new tax. It will not only hurt clubs but entire communities as clubs won’t be able to afford to put money into local events and projects. We all lose out under this money grab.”

“The Treasurer has suggested to me that only three clubs in the electorate will be worse off under this new tax but that is incredibly hard to believe. Club representatives were incredulous when told that the Government thought they would be better off under increased tax burdens.”

“I am offended that the NSW Government has tried to sweeten the deal by promising to inject the extra funds into the public hospital system. We definitely need better funding for health care but not at the expense of regional communities in NSW.”

“Independent Member for Northern Tablelands Richard Torbay and I will attend an emergency meeting of club representatives in Inverell in August. We will not rest on this issue and the NSW Government can expect a real fight to protect our way of life.”

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