

# PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Poker Machine Tax increase needs to be scrapped**

*18<sup>th</sup> July 2003*

Independent Member for Tamworth Peter Draper has welcomed reports that NSW Minister for Police John Watkins has asked for a proposed increase in poker machine tax to be reconsidered.

“This is an embarrassing result for the NSW Government. When you have a senior Minister coming out in opposition to a tax increase, you know there is a major problem,” Mr Draper said.

“The NSW Government is facing a real fight before this new tax will to become a reality. I thank the Police Minister and a number of other Labor Members for putting their communities before party politics.”

“The fact that the Minister for Police has spoken against this tax increase shows just how seriously this attempted money grab will affect our communities. The Premier must listen to his senior Ministers, other Members of Parliament, the club industry as well as community groups who will be directly affected.”

“This tax will hurt clubs and as a direct consequence will have a significant impact on regional employment. It will cost country NSW valuable jobs and devastate the support that our clubs give their local communities.”

“The Treasurer must scrap this idea before it is too late for our clubs and the sporting, social and community groups they support.”

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