

**DAVID HARRIS
MEMBER FOR WYONG
SHADOW MINISTER FOR THE CENTRAL COAST**

**LIESL TESCH
MEMBER FOR GOSFORD**

**DAVID MEHAN
MEMBER FOR THE ENTRANCE**

**YASMIN CATLEY
MEMBER FOR SWANSEA**

GOVERNMENT FAILS TO ADDRESS GROWING HOUSING CRISIS

Today's NSW Budget contains funding to complete several infrastructure projects promised at the 2019 election but gets an "F" for failing to substantially address the cost of living pressures particularly rental and housing affordability.

There is no new funding to increase social housing stock at a time when families are struggling to maintain or find a place to live. The much touted Landcom – TAFE land swap in Gosford doesn't rate a mention in the budget.

St Vincent's de Paul has identified that there needs to be at least 11,000 new dwellings constructed a year to even keep up with the current deficit in housing which places unrealistic constraints on the rental market.

Government figures show 46,000 general social housing applicants in NSW and a further 5,300 listed as priority up to the end of June 2020, with 3004 on the Central Coast alone, and in the last two years that figure has multiplied due to very low vacancy rates.

"Significant funding for the Pacific Highway through Wyong is still a distant dream with only \$1million in this budget for planning but the real disappointment is the lack of direct funding to increase housing stock." Said David Harris Shadow Minister for the Central Coast.

"The biggest concern for Central Coast residents, given they are already paying higher Council rates and charges, is the inflationary impact of the Government plunging the State further into debt and deficit." Said Mr Harris.

“Whilst Coast residents are seeing costs sky rocketing there is very little in this budget they can look forward to.” Mr Harris said.

“Again we see no funding from the NSW Liberal Government for projects like Carters Road and Scenic Drive. We also know that there is a housing crisis on the Coast, yet the Government have not provide any funding for new housing projects. It is no doubt that the NSW Liberal Government have failed the Swansea electorate in their latest budget.” Said Yasmin Catley.

“I welcome the funding to commence construction of lifts at Tuggerah Station and to complete the Pacific Highway upgrade currently underway at Lisarow, however, the failure to fund any new social housing in The Entrance electorate is a real disappointment. This budget fails to address the key issue facing our region, access to affordable housing.” Said David Mehan.

Liesl Tesch is disappointed the massive budget deficit delivered by the Liberal government is an attempt to buy votes after 12 years of neglect before the 2023 election. It provides little cost-of-living relief for Coasties, and does nothing to address the housing crisis in our community, nor does it provide funding for the Gosford TAFE upgrade.

ENDS

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MEDIA CONTACT: EO WYONG (02) 4352 2711