

**DAVID HARRIS MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR THE CENTRAL COAST**

**GREG WARREN MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**STATEMENT ON RELEASE OF CENTRAL COAST
COUNCIL PUBLIC INQUIRY REPORT**

Central Coast residents will be rightly disappointed that the long awaited Report from Roslyn McCulloch fails to address increasing rates and service cuts for rate payers.

Although Councillors have been dismissed, there are no definitive recommendations about staff.

The recommendations mainly say that Councillors need more training but do not outline administrative changes to ensure such a financial mess does not reoccur.

After months of testimony and waiting for the report to be released Central Coast Ratepayers will still have years of higher rates, higher water and sewerage charges and reduced services. Staff continue to have an axe hanging over their heads in terms of their employment.

The NSW Government must answer to ratepayers as to why they must continue to face increasing rates and charges whilst the architects of the merger stand by and let local people suffer the consequences of their failed ideology.

NSW Labor calls on the Minister to outline:

- What financial assistance it will give to Central Coast Council to alleviate the need for higher rates and charges;
- When the next Council election will be held; and
- What structure is being proposed for our publicly owned water infrastructure

ENDS

DATE: THURSDAY, 17 MARCH 2022

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