

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

**FIRE EMERGENCY HIGHLIGHTS LACK OF RECOGNITION FOR
CENTRAL COAST AS A REGION**

Labor has demanded that the Liberals recognise the Central Coast has a region after yesterday's catastrophic fire declaration caused confusion on the Central Coast as people were not clear whether the Coast was part of Greater Sydney or Greater Hunter fire districts.

Labor Shadow Minister for the Central Coast David Harris said "During a fire the Liberals need to make sure people have access to clear information about the risk for them."

"At the moment people on the Central Coast are struggling to find clear information. We can't afford these delays while people's safety is at risk."

The Central Coast is a region of 320,000 plus people and covers a geographic area stretching from the Hawksbury River in the South to Catherine Hill Bay in the North and West to Spencer, The Watagans and Ravensdale. (1,681 km²)

Central Coast Labor MPs, both Federal and State will write to the Liberal Ministers requesting that the Central Coast becomes a distinct weather and fire district.

The Illawarra by comparison is recognised as a distinct region yet the Central Coast which has a larger population is still divided between different districts for weather and fire causing confusion.

Under the Bureau of Meteorology the Central Coast is part of the Hunter weather district and under the Fire District classification the Central Coast is part of the Greater Sydney district, creating a lack of consistency.

"I have been contacted by local residents both by email and Facebook asking why the Central Coast hasn't got its own classification, when people heard Illawarra, Greater Sydney and Hunter had been declared catastrophic they didn't automatically equate that to include the Central Coast." David Harris, Shadow Minister for the Central Coast said.

Ends

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