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MEMBER FOR WYONG**

**YASMIN CATLEY  
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MEMBER FOR GOSFORD**

**DAVID MEHAN  
MEMBER FOR THE ENTRANCE**

## **CENTRAL COAST LABOR MPS CAN'T SUPPORT A TEN YEAR RATE RISE**

Central Coast Labor MPs today support the approach taken by IPART, the independent umpire, in regards to rate increases on the Central Coast.

Central Coast Council put a submission to IPART earlier this year for a Special Variation of 15% which was opposed by ratepayers.

IPART assessed this submission and made a detailed response which granted a 15% rise over 3 years.

In its determination IPART stated ***“We estimate that over the 3 years from 2021-22 to 2023-24, the council will collect an additional \$70.2 million in rates revenue compared with an increase limited to the assumed rate peg. This extra income will enable the council to repay its first 3 years of loan repayments. It will also allow the council sufficient time to adequately implement, execute and quantify its efficiency and productivity goals whilst responding to recent structural changes. We note there will be a public inquiry into the council and councillors have been suspended for the duration of the public inquiry.”***

More importantly IPART echoed the general mistrust the community has for Council's chequered financial history and put them on notice to demonstrate actual improvement.

IPART said ***“While in the past the council has not adequately demonstrated sufficient effort in identifying and realising cost savings, this 3-year temporary SV approval gives it sufficient time to show progress, address findings from the public inquiry if any and prepare and apply to IPART for an SV in the future if required.”***

Central Coast Labor MPs are happy to meet with the Administrator Mr Hart, but we will not lend support to a huge rate increase.

“We have called on the NSW Government to extend repayments of restricted funds, to pay for the full cost associated with Amalgamation and to end cost shifting more and more onto ratepayers of the Central Coast.” Said Mr Harris Shadow Minister for the Central Coast

“Council has three years to demonstrate it has its financial house in order and that should include assistance from the NSW Government whose merger policy has added to the woes of ratepayers.” Said Mr Harris.

“We are yet to receive a detailed briefing from Council to justify a further rate rise.” Said Mr Harris

ENDS

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