

**YASMIN CATLEY MP
DEPUTY LEADER NSW LABOR**

**LABOR MPs CALL FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO FAILED
AMALGAMATION OF CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL**

Labor Members of State Parliament have called on the Minister for Local Government, Shelley Hancock MP, to establish a public inquiry into the collapse of Central Coast Council and the structural problems it faced since its establishment in 2016 by the NSW Liberal Government.

With Wyong Shire and Gosford City Councils amalgamated against the wishes of local residents by the former Baird Liberal Government, structural problems were baked into the new organisation from Day 1.

The NSW Liberal Government has since appointed an administrator, and there are threats of a 15% rate increase, job losses and service cuts across the Central Coast Local Government Area.

The Deputy NSW Labor Leader and Member for Swansea Yasmin Catley said: "This triple-whammy of service cuts, layoffs and tax increases shows that there was a structural problem underpinning the Liberals' decision to amalgamate the old Gosford City and Wyong Shire Councils."

The Member for Wyong David Harris said: "We are calling on the State Government to establish a public inquiry into the collapse of Central Coast Council, the Terms of Reference of which must examine the financial position of the former Wyong and Gosford Councils before amalgamation as well as the structural weaknesses of the new council which the Liberals created in 2016."

The Member for the Entrance David Mehan said: "It is not acceptable for the community to foot the bill for the ideological folly of a failed council amalgamation process which the Liberals persisted with in spite of significant public opposition."

The Member for Gosford Liesl Tesch, called on Shelley Hancock to stop playing politics with Central Coast Council and guarantee a transparent and honest review of the Council's position.

"Central Coast Council is an amalgamated council established by the Liberals in the face of stiff community opposition. They need to take responsibility for the mess

they've created," Ms Tesch said.

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