

**DAVID HARRIS MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND TREATY**

**NO JUSTIFICATION FOR CUTTING ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS
WORKFORCE**

The Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, David Harris has condemned the Berejiklian Government's plan to cut 10 positions or 6 per cent of the Aboriginal Affairs workforce at a time when Closing the Gap is supposed to be a Government priority.

"In July 2020, the NSW Government signed the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap and Minister Don Harwin said Aboriginal Affairs NSW would work closely with the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations, NSW Government agencies and other parties to develop a Jurisdictional Implementation Plan by July 2021," Mr Harris said.

"This work is being placed at risk because the Department of Premier and Cabinet is struggling to meet the Treasurer's efficiency targets and is resorting to slashing important jobs.

"The timing is terrible when Aboriginal Affairs should be consulting with peak bodies and the wider Aboriginal community in NSW.

"Minister Harwin must immediately say where these jobs will be cut and guarantee no jobs will be lost in Regional and Rural NSW.

"The Minister must also guarantee the important Closing the Gap Jurisdictional Plan will not be impacted."

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