

CENTRAL COAST LABOR

LABOR SAYS NO TO MASSIVE RATE HIKES

Central Coast Labor State and Federal Representatives will oppose any attempt to introduce a 10% rate increase for residents to pay for the Liberal's failed Council amalgamation.

The NSW Government forced the former Wyong and Gosford Councils to merge in 2016 claiming the two Councils did not meet the "Fit for the Future" test based on claims around scale and capacity but it has been now shown that all merged Councils are experiencing financial challenges and the amalgamation process has not been supported adequately with expertise or funding.

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has been caught out roting funds meant to support amalgamated councils ([Gladys Berejiklian's office recovers missing government grants documents \(smh.com.au\)](http://www.smh.com.au)), whilst at the same time cost shifting more and more responsibilities such as the operation of Planning Panels onto Council.

Recent [research](#) has demonstrated that the financial burden on Amalgamated Councils has resulted in the 20 amalgamated councils losing \$1.03 billion in three years and ratepayers facing hikes in rates and cuts in services.

"Our community is facing the first recession in 30 years; businesses are struggling, and households are battling to pay their bills." Said Mr Harris

"Our local regional economy is fragile, and we need to grow jobs by attracting people and business, not increase the burden and create disincentive." Said Mr Harris

"Coast residents do not have the capacity to pay higher rates to bail out the NSW Government's failed amalgamation business model." Said Mr Harris

"Coast Labor MPs and Senators oppose any attempt the Government might make to claw back funds through higher rates to fix structural issues created by their amalgamation experiment, this is nothing more than an Amalgamation tax on local residents and business." Said Mr Harris

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Media Contact: EO (02) 4352 2711

DEBRA O'NEILL SENATOR	EMMA MCBRIDE MP MEMBER FOR DOBELL	YASMIN CATLEY MP MEMBER FOR SWANSEA
DAVID HARRIS MP MEMBER FOR WYONG	DAVID MEHAN MP MEMBER FOR THE ENTRANCE	LIESL TESCH MP MEMBER FOR GOSFORD