

**DAVID HARRIS MP
LABOR MEMBER FOR WYONG**

WARNERVALE AIRPORT RESTRICTIONS ACT REPEALED

Member for Wyong, David Harris MP, today called on Central Coast Council to ensure there are appropriate protections for the community surrounding the Warnervale Airport (Aircraft Landing Area) following the repeal of the Warnervale Airport (Restrictions) Repeal Act in the Legislative Council last night.

Central Coast Council has been given three years to implement protections for the community regarding the operation of the airfield in the Local Environment Plan (LEP).

“There needs to be regard given to landing strip length and curfew restrictions which protect the amenity of local residents now and into the future.” Said Mr Harris

“Similar airfields are adequately controlled through local planning instruments and any potential improvements or expansion must be independently reviewed by the Independent Planning Panel.” Said Mr Harris

“Belmont Airport for example is regulated by Council regulations implemented by Lake Macquarie Council and there is no reason why Central Coast Council can’t do the same.” Said Mr Harris

“The Opposition was successful in gaining three years for Central Coast Council to implement appropriate regulation before the Act is repealed and Minister Stokes gave a guarantee that if Council failed to meet the three year deadline then a State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) would be implemented to control the operation of the landing field.” Said Mr Harris

“There are also improved protections for surrounding environmental land under other NSW Legislation.” Said Mr Harris

“The NSW Opposition has worked to get a workable balance between those that use the ALA and protections for residents and surrounding businesses.” Mr Harris said

“It was clear that following the Independent Review by the Government, that the Act would be repealed – it is now important that Central Coast Council put in place a plan of management that places the interests of residents high on the agenda, whilst ensuring the Warnervale ALA is viable,” said Mr Harris

“I believe the Act could have been kept with amendments, but it was clear that the Act would be repealed, so it was incumbent on me to try and get the best outcome for users and residents alike. It is now time for the Council to develop a workable balance for the future operation of the airfield.” Said Mr Harris

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