

MEDIA RELEASE

David Harris MP

Shadow Minister for Central Coast



NSW LABOR GIVES IN PRINCIPLE SUPPORT FOR LOCAL PLANNING PANELS

NSW Labor has today given in principle support for Local Planning Panels to be introduced by Planning Minister Rob Stokes by 2020.

Local Planning Panels were a recommendation by former NSW Deputy Police Commissioner Nick Kaldas as a corruption proofing tool.

Development applications over a certain value will be determined by the new Local Planning Panel rather than council.

NSW Labor is calling for Minister Stokes to give guarantees that Planning Panels would contain planning experts, community members and council representatives and that local communities would have sufficient opportunity to comment on development applications.

Quotes from David Harris MP

“The planning system needs to be fair for both community members and developers, we need to be sure that Local Planning Panels are working to enhance living on the Central Coast whilst protecting the environment and amenity of our local area – which is why we live here”.

“Panels need to be properly representative and truly independent to make the best decisions”.

“NSW Labor understand that Local Planning Panels will restrict corruption opportunities so relationships between developers and councillors cannot influence decision making”.

“Local residents continue to have concerns about Planning Panels given the controversial decision to allow office buildings on Gosford Waterfront, so it’s up to the Minister to create guidelines which put the interests of Central Coast residents before developer dollars”.

ENDS

Media Contacts

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