



Rebekha Sharkie MP

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Your active, local voice in Canberra

Building big for Mayo

We're just over the halfway mark for 2020 and it's fair to say that between bushfires and a global pandemic our community in Mayo has experienced a rough six months.

Mayo is not alone in facing the long recovery from these declared emergencies, but like other regional communities in the eastern states heavily reliant on tourism and hospitality as economic drivers, our electorate has experienced a double hit.

We also operate in a global market and the COVID-19 economic forecast is predicting a world GDP decline far worse than the 2009 GFC recession which is why I am determined that our community should receive targeted attention when the Federal Government embarks on infrastructure spending to stimulate the national economy.

Nation-building projects

Whether it's the Ghan Railway or the Snowy Mountains hydro scheme, Australia has a long history of using 'big picture' projects, dare I say nation-building projects, to transition the nation out of recession.

Right now government is fast tracking Snowy Hydro 2.0 and there will be a range of other projects. Yes we have to pay it back but finance is affordable right now and these projects have a proven record of creating jobs, supporting business and building a better Australia.

When it comes to Mayo, I have been lobbying hard since the 2019 election for our own projects; projects that are even more important in a post COVID-19 economy.

With the support of my Centre Alliance colleagues Senators Stirling Griff and Rex Patrick, I have secured \$7.3M for a netting scheme for local fruit growers in hail-risk areas, \$2.26M to redevelop the Aldinga Sports Complex, \$2M for the new Mount Barker Sports Hub, \$550,000 to upgrade the Encounter Bay Football Club,



Rebekha is working to secure funding to make the Verdun freeway Interchange two-way.

\$200,000 for a telecommunications project at Cherry Gardens, \$200,000 for amenities at a Craighburn Farm playground, nearly \$150,000 for environmental projects and more than \$500,000 to improve sports facilities as well as the HMAS Hobart Memorial, the ANZAC garden at Macclesfield, the Aldinga Surf Life Saving Club and the Men's Shed at Yankalilla, but more needs to be done.

Victor Harbor Road & Verdun interchange

I have been working hard to secure funding to make the Verdun freeway interchange two-way, to build more overtaking lanes on the Victor Harbor Road between Mount Compass and Victor, to extend the Amy Gillett Bikeway and build a shared trail between McLaren Vale and McLaren Flat.

I am advocating for a dedicated research institute for the Lower Lakes and Ramsar-listed Coorong so we can adapt to climate change

and a Murray Darling Basin Authority community engagement officer based in Goolwa. The South Coast needs an MRI service that can be claimed on Medicare; and Kangaroo Island needs a nursing outreach health service.

Ageing sporting infrastructure at Goolwa and Houghton must be addressed and the growth area in Mount Barker needs an aquatic centre.

TAFE campuses in our region need to be upgraded, the library at Yankalilla should be expanded and there are many environmental projects that require attention.

It's always a challenge convincing Government to commit funding with competing national interests. However, I can say that since first being elected in 2016, I have always worked constructively with Government and I am unapologetic about making the needs of our community my priority.

Yours sincerely
Rebekha Sharkie MP

Since first being elected in 2016 Rebekha has:

given
310
speeches

asked
40
questions in
Question Time

introduced
17
pieces of
legislation

submitted
262
questions in
writing

YOUR VOICE IN PARLIAMENT

As a part of Centre Alliance, Rebekha Sharkie is responsible for the following portfolios: Ageing, Education, Agriculture & Rural Affairs, Housing, Family & Community Services, Indigenous Affairs, Arts, Sport, Women and Youth.

Climate still on the agenda



Rebekha was a guest speaker at the People's Climate Assembly organised on the lawns outside Federal Parliament earlier this year. Also attending were Anna Medlin from Aldgate, right, Pam White from Emu Bay, left, and Sally Cornish and Lynn Wood from Willunga. Rebekha talked about how the bushfires in the Adelaide Hills and on KI had brought home the impact of climate change in the Mayo landscape. She also spoke about the need to overcome the deadlock in the Parliament in taking real action to address climate change.

The national response to COVID-19 has delayed the formal introduction of a Crossbench Private Member's Bill aimed at breaking the climate policy deadlock in Australia.

The *Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) Bill 2020* was scheduled to be introduced to the Parliament on March 23 by the Independent Member for Warringah Zali Steggall, seconded by Rebekha.

Given the emergency declaration and the curtailing of parliamentary sittings, the Member for Warringah has deferred the official presentation of the Bill until later in the year.

"Zali and I will continue to advocate and lobby for the proposed legislation because the reality of climate change has not disappeared and it remains as important as ever to adapt to this critical environmental issue," Rebekha said.

"It is my hope that this proposed legislation will break through the partisan politics and that the Australian community will get behind Zali's petition at climateactnow.com.au and put pressure on their Federal members to call for a conscience vote."

The *Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) Bill 2020* is modelled on the UK's Climate Change Act (2008) and is designed to provide a comprehensive framework to respond to climate change.

"It is a privilege to lend my support as the second to this Bill. We need a new approach to break the climate policy deadlock in Australia," Rebekha said.

"Constant uncertainty regarding Federal policy makes bipartisan consensus on climate change more important than ever.

"I see my role on the crossbench as encouraging this consensus, and helping support action on climate change."

Focus on the Murray

Rebekha and her Centre Alliance colleagues Senators Stirling Griff and Rex Patrick will keep the Parliament focused on the sound management of the Murray Darling Basin.

Towards that end, Rebekha has been advocating for the Murray Darling Basin Authority to base a regional engagement officer at Goolwa and for the Federal Government to fund a dedicated research institute for the Lower Lakes and the Ramsar-listed Coorong.

"We know from the Mick Keelty inquiry that the amount of water flowing into the Murray River over the past 20 years has halved, showing that the impact of climate change cannot be ignored on this vulnerable part of the river system," Rebekha said.



Fletcher, pictured above representing his Stirling East Primary School Year 6/7 class, recently presented Rebekha with the book his class created on their research on the Murray River. The students spent a year studying the ailing Murray Darling Basin. Rebekha visited the school while they were doing their research and in June 2020 she tabled the book, 'Murray Darling Basin Calling: Questions Unanswered' to the Federal Parliament.

Rebekha secures projects worth \$13M

\$2.26M for Aldinga Sport



Rebekha celebrates the news of the \$2.26 million investment in the Aldinga Sports Complex with Kelli Sullivan and Jake Sullivan from the Aldinga Cricket Club, left, Steve Quick from the Aldinga Bay Hockey Club and Bonnie Dickson and Nikki Bond (with sons Owen, 3, Nolan, 18 months) from the Aldinga Soccer Club.

The \$2.26 million secured by Rebekha for a much-needed redevelopment of the Aldinga Sports Complex will assist the City of Onkaparinga and the multiple sporting groups that use the complex to redesign and upgrade the grounds, including the building of two new soccer pitches and the installation of cricket nets.

The Federal Government has announced more than \$13 million worth of projects for Mayo since the 2019 Election that have been negotiated by Rebekha and her Centre Alliance colleagues Senators Stirling Griff and Rex Patrick.

Many of these projects were highlighted in Rebekha's November 2019 newsletter and included a **\$7.3 million** netting scheme for fruit growers, a **\$200,000** telecommunications black spot upgrade for Cherry Gardens and more than **\$2.77 million** in sporting infrastructure projects for the communities of Mount Barker, Encounter Bay, Birdwood, Summertown, Mount Compass and Clarendon. Since then the Government has made another 11 announcements worth **\$3 million**, including:

- **\$2.26 million** for the Aldinga Sports Complex;
- **\$220,000** to upgrade the tennis courts at Gumeracha;
- **\$200,000** to install toilets and other amenities at the Blackwood Park Boulevard 'Treetop Playground' at Craighurn Farm;
- **\$85,000** for conservation work at Lions Park Currency Creek and Meadows Creek;
- **\$75,000** to resurface the tennis courts at the Woodchester Tennis Club;
- **\$40,000** for the Aldinga Washpool wetlands;
- **\$20,000** for pygmy possum conservation on the Fleurieu;
- **\$13,500** for the Aldinga Bay Surf Life Saving Club for equipment;
- **\$10,000** for the Yankaililla Men's Shed kitchen area;
- **\$10,000** to build a shelter at the ANZAC Memorial Garden at Macclesfield;
- **\$6,000** for the HMAS Hobart Memorial Lookout near Normanville.

\$10,000 for Memorial Garden



Macclesfield Football Club Vice President Eric Toome, left, club member Shane Bartlett, Macclesfield RSL Vice President Mark Stewart-Jones and Macclesfield Men's Shed Chairman Ken Smith show the plans for the ANZAC Garden shelter to Rebekha.



Rebekha has successfully advocated for \$220,000 for the Gumeracha Tennis Club to complete a full reconstruction and resurfacing of their courts and \$75,000 for the Woodchester Tennis Club so members can resurface their courts. Rebekha is pictured with Neville Gilbert, front, from the Gumeracha Sporting Club and fellow club members Bob Brooksby, right, Ian Carpenter and Paul Hammer.

\$85,000 for waterways



Rebekha has secured \$85,000 for Trees for Life to rehabilitate waterways in Lions Park at Currency Creek and Meadows Creek Reserve. Rebekha is pictured with volunteers Ben Stevens, left, Paul Rosser, Natasha Davis, John Edmeades, Hannah Jones, Michael Bartlett and Margaret Smith.

\$40,000 for wetlands



Rebekha has secured \$40,000 for the Willunga Environment Centre to support a long-term rehabilitation project for the Aldinga Washpool. Rebekha is pictured with Willunga Environment Centre committee member Joy Forrest, left, and YACCA Co-ordinator Saskia Gerhardy.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

All homes damaged by the Black Summer bushfires in Mayo have now been cleared with more than 450 premises needing to be rebuilt or significantly repaired.

Funding is still flowing through but according to Commonwealth figures supplied in late May, more than \$28 million has been distributed through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) to bushfire-affected communities in the Hills and Kangaroo Island.

This figure includes \$6 million for the clean-up assistance package, over \$2.7 million to local councils, around \$13.2 million in Primary Producer Recovery Grants to 176 approved applicants, just under \$5.95 million in Small Business Recovery Grants to 82 approved applicants and \$600,000 in Volunteer Firefighting Financial Support Program funding to 61 approved applicants.

Another \$1.2 million has been promised for the Cudlee Creek woodland bird resilience project and \$1.8 million has been allocated for a small business transformation package.

Depending on cost-sharing arrangements, much of the funds are matched by the State Government. Some councils including Mount Barker have been offered access to further DRFA funding.

Rebekha also secured an additional \$1 million for Rural Financial Counselling for farmers and small businesses in the Hills and KI.

"Cleaning up after a bushfire is an emotional time but a critical part of the recovery process. Of course we have a significant amount of internal fencing to replace, not to mention the continued clean-up of debris, so we have a long road ahead," Rebekha said.

"After speaking with fire-affected residents, I have some concerns that COVID-19 restrictions have put a brake on community inter-



Rebekha, left, and Federal Drought and Emergency Management Minister David Littleproud visited Mount Torrens farmer Rick Gladigau during a tour of the Cudlee Creek fireground.

actions. Social distancing doesn't mean social isolation so I am continuing to work with fire-affected communities to bring together residents in a responsible way.

"I have also met with the financial counsellors who are assisting landholders and small business owners through these crises."



PICTURED LEFT:
During a trip to the KI fireground early in 2020, Rebekha presented over a \$1,000 worth of Foodland vouchers to Trish and Kerryn from the Kingscote Recovery Centre. The vouchers were provided by the ADRA charity in Victor Harbor.

PICTURED RIGHT:
Kelly from Harrogate came to Rebekha's office to select one of the 90 hand-sewn quilts donated to fire-affected residents by the sewing group the Mandurah Sew & So's in WA via the CWA in Mount Barker. A number of the quilts were distributed to KI.



Stirling East Primary School students Indie and Maya take Rebekha and School Governing Council Chairperson Ben Dry on a tour of Cubby Lane, funded under the Local Schools Community Fund.

\$400,000 for Mayo schools and groups

More than \$400,000 worth of grants have recently been allocated to schools, clubs and organisations in Mayo through three programs targeting schools, community infrastructure and support for volunteers.

All of the grants were shortlisted for final approval by committees of local expertise set up by Rebekha.

A total of 13 Mayo schools shared in \$200,000 under the \$30 million Local Schools Community Fund.

Round 5 of the Stronger Communi-

ties Program provided 19 community groups with around \$150,000 collectively for small capital projects.

Nearly \$64,000 in Volunteer Grants were allocated to 38 organisations during National Volunteer Week in May.

"All of these grants help grassroots organisations build up their communities and make them better places to live and work, which is what these program are all about," Rebekha said.

Details of grant recipients at rebekhasharkie.com.au/grant_awardees.

Making Mayo Matter!

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