



Rebekha Sharkie MP

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

Your active, local voice in Canberra



Mayo Budget Matters

Welcome to the Federal Budget edition of our Mayo newsletter for Kangaroo Island.

Bushfires, drought and the COVID-19 recession have left their mark on the economy in Mayo and contributed to the \$213 billion Federal Budget deficit. However, when I focus on the 13,000 small businesses across Mayo, including the 705 on the Island, I see reason for optimism in our resilience and our response to the Government's stimulus measures.

While by no means perfect, the JobKeeper scheme has played its part in cushioning the impact of COVID-19. Raising JobSeeker has also acted as a critical buffer. There was no change to the permanent rate of JobSeeker in the Budget but an announcement was foreshadowed. Our community needs the support of a liveable JobSeeker rate. The following is a snapshot of some of the Budget announcements.

Wage Subsidy

The JobMaker Hiring Credit will give \$200 a week to employers who hire anyone aged 16-30, and \$100 a week for any worker aged 30-35. In addition, there is the \$1 billion JobTrainer program to provide low-cost training places for school-leavers and \$1.2 billion towards wage subsidies for 100,000 new apprenticeships and traineeships. The pre-existing Restart program gives employers up to \$10,000 to hire mature-age employees.

Instant Asset Write-Off

Businesses with a turnover of up to \$5 billion will be able to write off the full value of any eligible asset they purchase and any losses incurred up to June 2022 can be offset against prior profits made in the last two years, to 2018/19.

Income Tax Cuts

Legislated tax cuts have been back-dated to July 2020 and those refunds will be built into wages until the end of this financial year. Employees earning between \$45,000 and \$90,000 will end up with an extra \$1,080. Those earning more than \$90,000 will take home up to \$2,565 extra.



Rebekha with Jade, Ruby and Ava at Milly Mae's Cafe at Penneshaw.

Pensioners, veterans, disability carers and eligible families will receive two cash payments of \$250 in December 2020 and March 2021.

Aged Care

I welcome the announcement of an additional 23,000 extra home care packages, however, I am concerned that there are now over 130,000 people on the waiting list. I am also concerned about public dental funding and I renew my call for a \$1,000 biennial dental voucher for pensioners.

Mayo measures

The Government has announced \$625.2 million for SA infrastructure including \$136 million for Stage 2 of the Main South Road duplication. Through Centre Alliance's advocacy to the Federal Government, I have been able to secure more than \$50 million worth of measures for Mayo, including: \$12 million for overtaking lanes on the Victor Harbor Road, \$1.2 million for a nurse outreach service on KI and \$20,000 for Friends of the Dudley Peninsula. Turn over for more information.

Rebekha Sharkie MP

Centre Alliance Federal Member for Mayo

\$1.2M FOR KI OUTREACH NURSING PROGRAM

Federal Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie has secured \$1.2 million for a nursing outreach program for Kangaroo Island.

The program, announced in the Federal Budget, is expected to provide a Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner to complement the existing public and private health services on the Island. The service could include visits to patients living outside the main centre of Kingscote.

“Access to health care is a key issue right across Mayo but the further you live from Adelaide the more acute that lack of access is felt and that is particularly true on Kangaroo Island,” Rebekha said.



Rebekha Sharkie MP

“Residents on the Island told me they would like to have an outreach service that would travel beyond

Kingscote to help them manage their medical conditions and I am pleased that the Government has listened to my advocacy and provided funding.

“The broad skill set of a Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner would be a welcome addition to the Island community and an outreach model would complement the existing public and private health services offered in this remote setting.”

Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioners draw on expert clinical knowledge and use comprehensive and holistic nursing approaches to ensure co-ordination of care across a range of patient services, including management of chronic illness.

Budget delivers millions to KI through recovery programs

The Federal Budget outlined millions of dollars in funding across a range of Commonwealth programs to assist the Kangaroo Island community as it recovers from drought, bushfire and COVID-19.

This funding encompasses more than \$20 million in bushfire recovery payments including more than \$10 million in primary producer grants, nearly \$5 million in small business grants, \$1.3 million to the Kangaroo Island Council and more than \$700,000 for families.

Significant disaster recovery fund-

ing has also allocated for property clean-ups and mental health support and financial counselling.

As part of a \$200 million bushfire wildlife and habitat restoration package, \$413,807 has been granted to a project to prevent the extinction of the Kangaroo Island dunnart and \$405,000 has been awarded to a project to safeguard the Glossy Black-Cockatoo.

The Island was granted up to \$2 million for an oyster reef proposal at American River as part of a \$20 million program through the COVID-19

Relief and Recovery Fund. Kangaroo Island is also one of the tourism regions eligible to apply for funding under a \$150 million tourism industry support package.

In addition, in 2019 Rebekha successfully advocated for the Kangaroo Island Council to be granted \$1 million under the Drought Communities Programme.

After the Black Summer Bushfires, Rebekha also secured an extra \$1M for four additional rural financial counsellors, including two on KI, to assist bushfire-affected areas.

\$20,000 for Friends of Dudley Peninsula Parks

Friends of Dudley Peninsula Parks on Kangaroo Island have \$20,000 to spend on weed control, revegetation and heritage conservation in local parks and reserves thanks to Rebekha’s advocacy.

“The Friends group will use the money for volunteer training and equipment and materials for weed removal and revegetation in the Cape Willoughby, Baudin, Lashmar and Pelican Lagoon Conservation Parks,” Rebekha said.

Friends of Dudley Peninsula Parks President Janine Mackintosh said members were looking forward to next year’s program.

“Kangaroo Island was devastated by last summer’s bushfires so we really appreciate this assistance, which will enable us to deliver these important projects to conserve our unique ecological and maritime heritage,” Ms Mackintosh said.



Rebekha with Damian Miley from the KI Landscape Board during a visit to the Dudley Peninsula.

Making Mayo Matter!

POST: PO Box 1601, Mount Barker SA 5251

PHONE: 08 8398 5566

Electorate Office: 1/72 Gawler Street, Mount Barker

Satellite office: 26 Hindmarsh Road, Victor Harbor

Authorised by R. Sharkie, 1/72 Gawler St, Mount Barker SA 5251. Printed by Big Quince Print, 2/56 Dauncey Street, Kingscote SA 5223.