



Rebekha Sharkie MP

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Your active, local voice in Canberra



Mayo Budget Matters

Welcome to the Federal Budget edition of our Mayo newsletter for the Fleurieu and South Coast.

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 in our community, 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.



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, Aldinga to Sellicks Beach. Through Centre Alliance's direct advocacy to the Federal Government, I have been able to secure more than \$50 million worth of measures for Mayo, including: \$12 million for over-taking lanes on the Victor Harbor Road; \$5 million for the Goolwa Sports Precinct; and \$1.5 million to construct the Flat to Vale Trail. See inside for more information.

Rebekha Sharkie MP

Centre Alliance Federal Member for Mayo

KICKING GOALS FOR GOOLWA



Alexandrina Mayor Keith Parkes, right, took Rebekha on a tour of the Goolwa Sports Precinct back in May 2019, along with council staff and representatives of the Goolwa/Port Elliot Football Club.

\$5M for sports precinct upgrade

Rebekha Sharkie has secured \$5 million towards the upgrade of the Goolwa Sports Precinct, including the building of new multi-purpose clubrooms that meet modern standards.

The funding is part of a \$10 million proposal being facilitated by the Alexandrina Council which owns and manages the oval and adjoining courts and recreation areas. The funding was outlined in the Federal Budget.

"Council and club representatives took me on a tour of the precinct during the 2019 election campaign and I could see first-hand how necessary it was to bring the whole area up to modern standards," Rebekha said.

"On behalf of the Alexandrina community, I would like to thank the Australian Government for this generous funding commitment," Alexandrina Mayor Keith Parkes said.

"I would also like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of our Federal Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie, who advocated strongly on behalf of Council to help bring this funding for this community sporting precinct to life."

YOUR VOICE IN PARLIAMENT

As part of Centre Alliance, Rebekha Sharkie has responsibility for the following portfolios: Family and Community Services, Disability Services, Housing, Ageing, Indigenous Affairs, Veterans, Arts, Sport, Youth, Education, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Environment, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Investment, Transport, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Aged Care spending Bill to be reviewed by Parliament

A Private Member's Bill introduced by Rebekha seeking greater financial transparency in residential aged care, has been referred to a Parliamentary Committee for review.

The Bill mirrors legislation introduced in June last year by Centre Alliance colleague Senator Stirling Griff. That Bill required aged care providers to disclose their income, costs of food and medication, staff and staff training, accommodation, administration and monies paid to parent bodies in annual financial transparency reports to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner.

"At the time the government was not interested in taking up the legislation. Senior

Australians and their families haven't lost interest and, in the interim, the impact of COVID-19 has only highlighted the under-resourcing in the sector," Rebekha said.

"In my time in office, I have been approached numerous times by constituents deeply worried about the quality of the food served to their loved ones and the number of staff available to help with feeding and hygiene.

"This legislation will enable families of loved ones, stakeholders and the public to have a clear view, for the first time, on the proportion of income that providers actually spend on costs of care and how much is just being pocketed or wasted."

\$1M local TAFE investment

TAFE SA has been given \$1 million to upgrade its campuses at Victor Harbor and Mount Barker thanks to Rebekha's advocacy.

"This funding is urgently needed and I thank the Government for taking on board my submissions to upgrade TAFE SA campuses in our region, and setting aside money in the Budget," Rebekha said.

Much of the work needs to be done at the Mount Barker campus to bring the construction, automotive, community services, hospitality and business and IT facilities up to modern standards.

Around \$200,000 will be used at the Victor Harbor campus to upgrade facilities for forklift licensing and training in tourism and hospitality and community services.

\$250,000 for Yankalilla library

Rebekha Sharkie has secured \$250,000 to renovate the Yankalilla Library into a modern space for all ages.

The funding was announced in the Federal Budget and will be used by the District Council of Yankalilla to fit out the purpose-built library space.

"This funding will allow the council to create a Community Hub at the Centre and to ensure the library is able to ramp up its already successful programs and branch

out into new additional programs," Rebekha said.

Yankalilla Mayor Glen Rowlands said the funding was fantastic news for the district.

"Rebekha and I have been talking about the major benefits an upgraded library would provide our community for a number of years and I thank her and Senator Stirling Griff for their continued advocacy to help make this happen. We are very grateful," Mayor Rowlands said.

BUDGET MEASURES SECURED FOR MAYO

\$1.5M for Flat to Vale Trail

Rebekha has secured \$1.5 million for the construction of a shared walking and cycling track between McLaren Flat and McLaren Vale.

The \$2 million Flat to Vale Trail is a project being delivered by the Onkaparinga Council with input from the Flat to Vale Trail Community Group, the Coast to Vines Bicycle User Group and the McLaren Vale Grape, Wine & Tourism Association.

"This proposed shared pathway between McLaren Vale and McLaren Flat would link the highly successful Coast to Vines Rail Trail in the heart of the McLaren Vale region, providing an off-road link between the townships and tourist destinations," Rebekha said.

Flat to Vale Trail Community Group Chairperson Cherise Vallet said: "It's great to have such strong advocacy from Rebekha. It is obvious she is really going into bat for all manner of local projects that will support our community to thrive and enjoy life in this beautiful region."

Onkaparinga Mayor Erin Thompson said the City of Onkaparinga would now consider bringing forward the remaining \$450,000 needed to fund the entire trail.

\$12M to make Victor Harbor Road safer

After years of advocacy, Mayo MP Rebekha Sharkie has successfully secured \$12 million in the Federal Budget to upgrade the Victor Harbor Road.

The money will be used to build more overtaking lanes, over and above the lane promised last year by the State Government between Urimbirra Wildlife Park and the intersection of Crows Nest Road.

"Making the road between Mount Compass and Victor Harbor safer for our community has been one of my highest priorities since I first obtained office in 2016 so I am relieved that after years of negotiations the Government has agreed to provide funding for this dangerous section of highway," Rebekha said.

"Last year's budget announcement of \$73 million to complete the duplication of the South Road to McLaren Vale section of the road was welcome but, as our community rightly pointed out, safety really needs to be improved at the other end.



Rebekha beside the Victor Harbor Road at Mount Compass.

"More overtaking lanes will ease congestion at peak times and assist in managing the ever-increasing traffic between Mount Compass and Victor Harbor.

"The Victor Harbor Goolwa region is one of the fastest-growing urban areas in South Australia and it is the most visited day-trip destination outside the metropolitan area.

"Fixing this road is a high priority for our community so I thank the Government for listening to us and committing this funding."

Federal Minister for Finance Mathias Cormann said the \$12 million Australian Government funding commitment to construct overtaking lanes on Victor Harbor Road between Mount Compass and Victor Harbor would improve road safety for all users.

"Ms Sharkie has been a strong advocate for upgrades to Victor Harbor Road since 2016 and the Government has been pleased to work with her to deliver these critical upgrades as part of the 2020-21 Budget," he said.

\$1.6M for *headspace* youth mental health

Mayo will have its own full-service *headspace* youth mental health centre to service the South Coast, Hills and Kangaroo Island thanks to Rebekha's advocacy.

The \$1.6 million funding commitment for a Mayo-based service was announced in the Federal Budget. At present, *headspace* services operating in the electorate are co-ordinated from Murray Bridge.

"After lobbying in 2017 I was able to secure a satellite *headspace* service in Mt Barker and then a shopfront service for the South Coast with outreach to Kangaroo Island," Rebekha said.

"Now, finally, we have our own *headspace* centre, based in Mount Barker but expanding across the Fleurieu to KI.



Rebekha is pictured at the recent celebration of Mayo's expanded headspace satellite service.

"Our *headspace* satellite services are already full and with the pressures of COVID-19, demand will only increase."



BUDGET MEASURES SECURED FOR MAYO

\$245,000 habitat investment

Weed control and habitat restoration projects in nine conservation parks and reserves between Goolwa and Willunga on the Fleurieu Peninsula will go ahead over the next two years thanks to \$245,000 in Budget funding secured by Rebekha.

The funding will be used to support the work of the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association (GWLAP) in Tokuremoar Reserve near Goolwa; council reserves between Goolwa and Port Elliot; Bullcock Hill Conservation Park; Cox Scrub Conservation Park; Finniss Conservation Park; Mount Magnificent Conservation Park and Kyeema Conservation Park.

GWLAP General Manager Ross Oke welcomed the allocation of funding.

"We are most grateful to Rebekha for her support of our work and thank the Federal Government for making this funding available," he said.

Additional projects already announced ...

The Federal Budget confirmed the funding for projects secured for Mayo by Centre Alliance and announced last year including:

\$2.26 million for the Aldinga Sports Complex

\$550,000 for the Encounter Bay Sports Complex

\$85,000 for Trees for Life to rehabilitate Lions Park at Currency Creek and Meadows Creek Reserve

\$60,000 for the Mount Compass Sports Club

\$40,000 for the Willunga Environment Centre

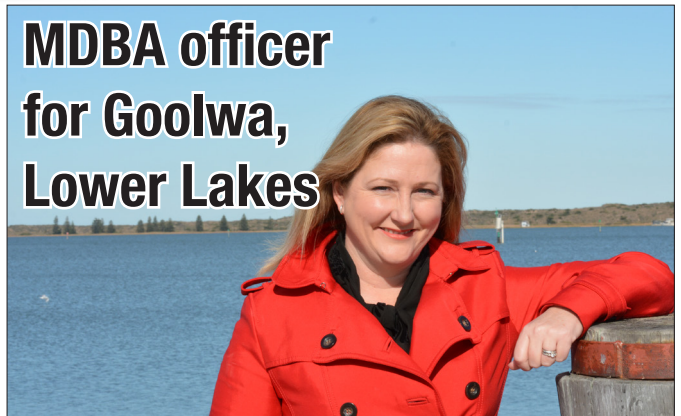
\$20,000 for Western Pygmy Possum conservation

\$13,500 for the Aldinga Bay Surf Lifesaving Club

\$10,000 for the Yankalilla Men's Shed

\$6,000 for HMAS Hobart Memorial at Normanville.

MDBA officer for Goolwa, Lower Lakes



After long advocating for the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) to have a permanent presence in the Lower Lakes and Coorong region, Federal Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie has welcomed the announcement of a 'Goolwa Region Regional Co-ordination Officer'.

The Commonwealth-funded position was announced in September with the \$450,000 in funding directly secured by Centre Alliance.

"The environment and the communities at the very end of the River face very different challenges and issues and they need their own representative so I am pleased that the Government has listened to us and decided to base a regional co-ordinator officer in Goolwa," Rebekha said.

Rebekha said the Government now needed to take the next step and set up a Murray River Research Institute in Goolwa with a focus on environment monitoring and climate change resilience and adaptation.

"I have met with local authorities about the model the institute should take and I have had positive discussions with the Government about the \$8 million needed for the project," Rebekha said.

\$160,000 for Hindmarsh Island Landcare

Federal Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie has secured \$160,000 in the Budget for the Hindmarsh Island Landcare group to continue revegetating the Lawari Conservation Park.

"This is a great project using local volunteers and the resources of the Hindmarsh Island Landcare Nursery and I was pleased to advocate the

Federal Government directly to secure the \$160,000 they needed," Rebekha said.

"This grant will provide a tremendous impetus for continuing the rehabilitation needed on such a key location at the mouth of Australia's most important river," said Pauline Jowett, Chairperson of the Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group.



Rebekha recently joined members of the Hindmarsh Island Landcare group as they continued their work revegetating the newly created Lawari Conservation Park.

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: E 26 Hindmarsh Road, Victor Harbor

Authorised by R. Sharkie, 1/72 Gawler St, Mount Barker SA 5251. Printed by Reid Print, 1/24 Light Cres, Mount Barker SA 5251.