



Rebekha Sharkie MP

Federal Member for Mayo



MEDIA RELEASE

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SELLS OUT WOODSIDE COMMUNITY

Federal Member for Mayo, Rebekha Sharkie MP, is determined to fight for the future of Woodside Barracks, despite a government decision to sell the site.

"I'm angry, disappointed and frustrated that the Government has decided to offload the Barracks, one of 68 sites across the nation to be sold at 'market value'.

The Adelaide Hills community has been left in the dark for more than two years, while the Government has sat on the Defence Estate Audit Report."

Ms Sharkie has been advocating for the retention of the Barracks since concerns were raised about its future some years ago.

Ms Sharkie said she would continue discussions with the Government and other stakeholders about future use of the Barracks, with the aim of retaining the site for community use.

"I'm meeting with the Federal Government tomorrow on this issue. I want to know what's next? What's the timeline? What are the options now?" Ms Sharkie said.

"I also want to know what role the South Australian Government might play. We have a state election in just 45 days and the public has a right to know about any possible plans for the Barracks.

The Adelaide Hills is already buckling under population pressure and if we were to use this site for housing, the infrastructure simply wouldn't cope - our health services, education facilities, our roads."

"No matter the eventual outcome, I'm committed to advocating for ongoing community use, including continued access to the pool by the Onkaparinga Swimming Club."

The Barracks have been part of the fabric of Woodside since being established almost 100 years ago in 1927.

The 145-hectare facility is significant to the Adelaide Hills – historically, economically and environmentally."

Ms Sharkie added that any changes to land use at Woodside would need to take into account already high fire danger in the area.

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