



# Rebekha Sharkie MP

Federal Member for Mayo



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Call to Suspend Fuel Excise as Cost-of-Living Pressures Mount

Federal Independent MP for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie is calling on the Federal Government to urgently suspend Australia's fuel excise for 60 days.

Ms Sharkie said the soaring cost of petrol and diesel is placing significant strain on families, farms and businesses already grappling with higher bills, energy costs and interest rates.

"Every time Australians fill up their car, they are reminded of the relentless pressure on their budgets," Ms Sharkie said.

"Fuel is not a luxury, it's a necessity. People in regional and rural communities, like those across Mayo, are really hit hard. When fuel costs more, food costs more."

Ms Sharkie said a temporary suspension of fuel excise would provide immediate and meaningful relief, as well as having an inflationary benefit.

"I had previously called for the excise to be halved for 90 days, but given the unrelenting surge in fuel prices, a two month pause on fuel excise is a practical step the Government can take right now," she said.

Ms Sharkie also highlighted Australia's obligations as part of the International Energy Agency, which requires member countries to maintain at least 90 days' worth of fuel reserves.

"Australia is currently not meeting its obligations under the International Energy Agency," Ms Sharkie said.

"It's critical we take fuel security seriously. Strengthening our fuel reserves must go hand-in-hand with providing immediate cost relief."

Ms Sharkie acknowledged that although global issues were behind the rise in fuel prices, domestic policy levers should be used where available.

"Australians understand that international factors play a role, but that doesn't mean we should do nothing," she said.

"We have acted before to provide relief through fuel excise reductions, and we can do it again."

Ms Sharkie is urging the Government to act quickly, warning that inaction risks further financial stress for households and businesses.

"People are doing it tough, and they deserve practical support - not just empty reassurances."

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