



Rebekha Sharkie MP

Federal Member for Mayo



MEDIA RELEASE

COMMUNITY TO HELP SHAPE FUTURE OF WOODSIDE BARRACKS

Federal Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie is supporting the establishment of a community group to help identify future uses for the Woodside Barracks.

More than 200 people attended a community information session last night hosted by the Department of Defence.

Ms Sharkie said the Barracks were more than just Defence land - they are woven into the identity of Woodside and the wider Hills region.

“The turnout reflects the importance of the Woodside Barracks to our community,” Ms Sharkie said.

“The Barracks have a deep connection with the Adelaide Hills community and particularly with Woodside. Many local families have connections to the site through Defence service, community events, employment or simply growing up with the Barracks as part of life.”

The information session provided an opportunity for residents to ask questions and hear more about the future of the site following the Government’s decision to sell the Barracks as part of the national Defence Estate divestment process.

“I know this decision has disappointed many people, especially as the Barracks was due to celebrate its 100th anniversary next year,” Ms Sharkie said.

While she had strongly opposed the sale, Ms Sharkie said the focus must now turn to ensuring the community has a strong voice in determining what comes next.

Ms Sharkie said extensive community feedback already showed strong sentiment around retaining the site for community purposes.

“My office sent surveys to 6,000 residents and the response was very clear. 94-percent of respondents were not in favour of housing development on the site,” she said.

Ms Sharkie confirmed she had been assured by the State Housing and Planning Minister that there were no plans to use the site for residential or employment purposes.

“We also know that most survey respondents wanted the Barracks retained for community and recreation facilities, while protecting the wildlife and environmental values of the area.”

“The next chapter for the Barracks is an opportunity to ensure the best outcome for the site and the community. Perhaps this is our moment to be aspirational and create something special for the Hills that generations will enjoy and use for years to come.”

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