



# Rebekha Sharkie MP

*Federal Member for Mayo*



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **TAKING THE BATTLE FOR SA'S WINE INDUSTRY TO PARLIAMENT**

Federal Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie has taken the concerns of local grape growers, winemakers and tourism operators directly to Parliament, calling for urgent Federal assistance for Australia's struggling wine industry.

Speaking to her motion in Parliament, Ms Sharkie said South Australia is the heart of Australia's wine industry and cannot afford to see growers and winemakers left without support.

"South Australia is Australia's wine state. This industry is woven into our identity. It supports regional towns, family businesses, tourism operators, freight companies, manufacturers and thousands of jobs," Ms Sharkie said.

"My electorate of Mayo is home to some of our most recognised wine regions like the Adelaide Hills, McLaren Vale, Langhorne Creek and Currency Creek."

"I've spoken with growers who are questioning whether they can continue. They're facing the impossible choice of growing grapes that won't sell or paying huge costs to pull out vines and diversify," Ms Sharkie said.

"When vineyards struggle, the impact spreads quickly. Cellar doors lose visitors, restaurants lose customers, bottling plants lose contracts and regional communities lose confidence."

"The industry is asking the Government for support to manage the current crisis in an orderly and dignified way," Ms Sharkie said.



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“Without intervention, structural adjustment will still happen - but it will happen in a way that leaves families, communities and taxpayers carrying a much greater cost.”

Ms Sharkie's motion recognises the wine industry's economic significance and calls on the Government to support Australian Grape and Wine's proposed \$139.25 million three-year package to rationalise supply and restore industry viability.

Ms Sharkie said South Australia's status as one of the world's great wine regions made federal action even more important.

“South Australia is a proud member of the Great Wine Capitals Global Network, and our wine reputation is recognised around the world,” she said.

“Our wine regions have contributed enormously to Australia's economy and international reputation. They deserve a genuine partnership with the government to help secure their future.”

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