



Rebekha Sharkie **MP**

Federal Member for Mayo



MEDIA RELEASE

SHARKIE WELCOMES GOVERNMENT MOVE TO ACT ON ATO CREDIT CARD BAN

Independent Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie has welcomed the Federal Government's decision to intervene and delay the planned ban on credit card payments by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Ms Sharkie's office has been contacted by numerous small business operators who were concerned about the change, particularly those who rely on credit cards to manage the timing of tax payments and cash flow.

The ATO had planned to stop accepting credit card payments from 1 December, following the introduction of new rules preventing businesses from passing card payment surcharges on to customers.

Ms Sharkie said it was unfair to expect small businesses to absorb the cost of card payment fees while the ATO refused to do the same.

"My office has heard from business operators who were worried about how they would manage their cash flow when the credit card option for tax was taken away.

"For some businesses, paying their tax by credit card provides a few extra weeks to manage their finances, pay staff and suppliers and keep their business operating.

"Removing that flexibility at short notice would have put unnecessary pressure on some businesses that are already juggling rising operating costs and interest rates."

Ms Sharkie said the Government's move to intervene was welcome.

"This gives small businesses more time to plan and manage their cash flow, rather than being forced to deal with this change at short notice.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our local communities. They employ local people, support other businesses and keep our regional towns thriving.

"While this delay is welcome, the Government must continue to listen to small businesses and ensure any changes do not place further pressure on those already dealing with rising costs."

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