Rebekha Sharkie MP
Federal Member for Mayo



MEDIA RELEASE

Sharkie against data centre push for Tungkillo

Independent Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie MP has vowed to oppose a proposed data centre near Tungkillo in the Adelaide Hills.

While the proposed site is in the neighbouring electorate of Barker, Ms Sharkie said her office had been contacted by nearby local Mayo residents concerned about the development and its potential impacts.

“Data centres should not be built on prime agricultural land,” Ms Sharkie said.

“The Federal Government has failed by not already having national standards for AI Infrastructure. Data centres must be built in appropriate locations and there must be clear protections for the communities expected to host them. We should have had laws in place by now.

“At a minimum, data centres should never be proposed on arable farmland. They should be able to meet their own electricity and water needs without placing additional pressure on local resources, have the support of the majority of the local community, and not impose unacceptable noise or traffic impacts on neighbouring properties.

“If a proposed data centre cannot meet those basic tests, it should not proceed.

“The area between Mount Torrens and Tungkillo contains productive agricultural land and is also a high-risk bushfire area. Both factors must be taken seriously when assessing a development of this scale.

“Residents deserve clear information about what is proposed, including its water and energy requirements, traffic, noise, bushfire risk and environmental impacts.

“The community must have a meaningful say from the outset, not simply an opportunity to comment after key decisions have already been made.

“If data centres are being built to service our metro areas, there also needs to be a very good explanation for why regional communities should be expected to carry the burden.”

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