

# Fortuna sale not on: Gibbons

THERE was no sign of a Federal Government study into the future of Fortuna, even though it was due to be complete by the end of the year, Bendigo MHR Steve Gibbons said yesterday.

Stepping up his campaign against the sale of the property, Mr Gibbons said Defence Minister John Moore should spell out the future of Fortuna.

The historic site is home to the 150-strong ATSE mapping operation.

Mr Gibbons also renewed his call for assurances the mapping enterprise would be kept in Bendigo.

Fortuna has been listed for sale by the Federal Government.

Mr Gibbons said he had been told earlier by Senator Eric Abetz, parliamentary secretary to Mr Moore, that a Government study of the possible alternatives for the property's future would be undertaken "before the end of the year".

But Mr Gibbons said time was running out.

"It's time the Bendigo public were told what all this really adds up to for the Bendigo region's economy and jobs," he said.

"Bendigo needs the 150 jobs at ATSE and the support that the operation gives to regional business."

Mr Gibbons said the study was supposed to spell out the "cost and implications for the various alternatives" for the property's future.

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