



Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS



SHADOW MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

FLINDERS e-NEWSLETTER MARCH 2009

Welcome to the March 2009 edition of the *Flinders e-Newsletter*.

With recent figures showing 10,000 Australians joining unemployment queues each week, job security is a top priority. Now, more than ever, we should be investing in replumbing rural Australia and fixing up our pipes, channels and dams rather than exporting Australian jobs and buying out our farms as is now being proposed. I explore those issues here in this newsletter.

Locally, I sincerely thank our firefighters and community volunteers who have done so much to support Victoria's bushfire victims. We must remember that they still need our continuing help, even though their plight is now fading from the daily headlines.

Rebuilding after the Victorian bushfires

As families start to rebuild their lives after the fires, we must learn the lessons from this disaster. We must also congratulate all those who played important roles during and after that terrible February night - the firefighters, police, ambulance, SES, counsellors, volunteers and vital groups like the Red Cross and Salvation Army.

I discuss the contributions of our volunteers and the need to consider profound changes in fuel reduction practices on SKY News [here](#).

My office has been helping to promote local fundraising efforts and deliver information through our website.

You can read a copy of my message thanking local volunteers, [here](#). To view the community bulletin board to promote local fundraising efforts [please click here](#).

I also thank our volunteers in the [attached video](#) of my Parliamentary condolence speech.

Caring for our climate while not exporting Australian jobs to China

As more and more Australians join the unemployment queues, our response to climate change must not be a strategy to export jobs to China, as the Government has proposed.

Just how many jobs would go under the Government's planned emissions trading scheme? It's a question I posed in a debate on Lateline last Friday. [Click here](#) to watch the debate and read the transcript.

The impact on jobs is an important issue that I highlighted in a speech to Parliament. [Read it here](#).

The need for practical solutions like solar and 'green carbon' are vital for climate change but are being largely ignored by the Government, as I argue in [this comment piece](#).

Green carbon solutions like bio char and soil carbon, feature in [a blog](#) that I posted recently.

[Read](#) why Kevin's CPRS is in need of some CPR.

We don't want to lose farm jobs either...

Penny Wong and Peter Garrett have spent recent weeks backing a plan to buy out Australian farms and farmers.

Our plan to help save the Murray-Darling focuses on 'replumbing' rural Australia with \$5.8 billion in new water infrastructure, which would help save water and create jobs.

Simply buying out farms will cost jobs and vital food production, as [this article in the Financial Review](#) demonstrates.

Read my response to that warning on rural job losses [here](#).

The need for an acceleration in the roll-out of water infrastructure was highlighted in [this recent speech](#) to the 4th Annual Water Symposium in Sydney.

Why we shouldn't flood the freshwater Murray Lower Lakes with saltwater

The ALP is planning to flood the freshwater ecology of the prized Murray Lower Lakes with salt water. It's something I firmly oppose.

[Listen](#) to my discussion on this important issue in an interview on Canberra radio.

[Read](#) my article in *The Advertiser* on the same issue and why there's a drought at the Murray-Darling Basin Authority HQ [here](#).

At the same time, there's big trouble brewing for the PM's national water agreement. [Read more](#).

Growing community concerns about the Wonthaggi desal plant in Victoria

Still on water, there are growing concerns within the community and from commentators about John Brumby's plan for a desal plant on the pristine Wonthaggi coastline – and how the Rudd Government is helping him. [Read more](#).

There's also controversy about plans to revive a housing estate for desal construction workers near Phillip Island. Penguins, watch out! [Here](#).

News just in – Peter Garrett has given approval for the desalination plant. This has come as a huge blow to Victoria. Mr Garrett should be a champion of recycling not an apologist for the State's decision to create an environmental mess at Wonthaggi.

The return of Whitlam economics

It is becoming clearer that Australia is being taken back to early 1970s-style economic management. I worry about the rush to laden young Australians with \$200 billion of debt which they will have to repay.

You can [read the transcript](#) of a media conference that I held in Canberra to express concern about the latest measures which will leave every man, woman and child in Australia with a \$9,500 debt.

[Listen to the interview](#) with 3AW's Ross Stevenson and John Burns immediately following the all-night debate in Parliament where Kevin Rudd pushed through his \$200 billion debt plan.

Supporting local growth

Flinders is a great place to live, work and play. The community works hard to improve life for all those who live here. That's why I have been proud to support local efforts, including:

- The [San Remo Fisherman's Co-operative](#), which is being re-developed as a tourist draw card to highlight the local fishing heritage, with the assistance of a \$1.2 million Coalition Government grant.
- The push for a New Aquatic Centre for Rosebud – [read my letter to John Brumby](#).
- Our Campaign for a Southern Peninsula Teenager's Café – [read the innovative plans](#) by local young people for the Peninsula.

Seniors Forum in Rosebud

Like all Australians, self-funded retirees and pensioners are extremely worried about how the worsening economic situation will impact on their way of life. They also fear new Federal Government measures that will strip entitlements under the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card from thousands of people.

On 27 March, I will be hosting a Seniors Forum at Rosebud on the Mornington Peninsula which will include a range of speakers including famed TV Weatherman and Environmentalist Rob Gell. The forum will cover finance, lifestyle, welfare and environmental issues. [Read more here.](#)

Finally, I will be appearing on ABC television's [Q & A program](#) on Thursday, 26 March from 9.30pm when I look forward to contributing to the latest political, social and environmental issues.

If you have colleagues or friends who would like to receive this newsletter on a regular basis, they can sign up through my website at www.greghunt.com.au or [email me](#). Feel free to make comments on my [blog](#) site.

If you do not wish to receive further editions of the newsletter, simply reply to this email with "unsubscribe" in the subject box or [click here](#).



www.greghunt.com.au

This email was sent and authorised by Greg Hunt MP, 4/184 Salmon Street, Hastings, Victoria 3915.

To unsubscribe to this email please [click here](#).
If you can not view the links in this email, please download this newsletter from my website homepage at www.greghunt.com.au