



# Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS



SHADOW MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

## FLINDERS e-NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2009

Thanks for taking the time to open up the September 2009 edition of the *Flinders e-Newsletter*.

As I posted this bulletin, a Senate Economics Committee [inquiry](#) was continuing to hear evidence about more of the obscene waste and haste of the Government's \$42 billion stimulus spending splurge.

RMIT Economics Professor, Steven Kates, has told the inquiry that taxpayers are effectively paying \$1.5 million for every job created by the package.

I was not surprised when I read that [Dr Kates described](#) the spending of \$2.7 billion on pink batts - as well as over \$14 billion on school halls - as ill-considered. He told the Senate inquiry:

*"They are not good public policy. They are, I think, a mistake and almost every dollar of it is a waste."*

Locally, I have been backing a campaign for a much needed ambulance station at Grantville on the Bass Coast.

I have also had the privilege of supporting a new sanctuary for Tasmanian Devils at Pearcedale.

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### Jobs lost in pink batts cash splash hash

Insulation installers are telling me they're having to lay off staff because there aren't enough pink batts.

So much for creating jobs!

- Read for yourself what small businesses told [The Australian](#) and [The Daily Telegraph](#).
- See [the blog](#) I posted on the sorry tale that is this pink batts program.
- And check out [the transcript](#) of an interview with 2GB's Andrew Moore on a nasty attempt of media manipulation by the Environment Minister on changes to the stimulus package.

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### Outback Aussies hurt by deep solar cuts

It was interesting to see the PM and Senator Wong talking a lot about climate change in the US.

But there's an old saying: "look at what they do, not what they say."

In June, Kevin Rudd scrapped not only the \$8,000 solar homes rebate, but also a remote solar program.

The 7.30 Report has just broadcast a significant story revealing the impact of the cut affecting pastoralists and indigenous communities. Read [my statement](#), which includes a link to watch the story.

If the PM really cared about climate change, why would he axe the very solar programs that make a difference?

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### Making it an emissions trading scheme for all of Australia

You've probably seen today's polling which reflected a growing suspicion about the Government's ETS.

People in country areas are particularly worried about the flawed and hasty Rudd-Wong design.

That is why I am working hard with my colleagues on plans to provide people in the rural sector greater protections and new incentives to introduce new 'green carbon' measures as part of the ETS.

It's an issue which I discussed as part of an interview on ABC's NewsRadio. [Here's the text](#).

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## Clock ticking down on Garrett's Traveston Dam decision

I am in Queensland this week as a guest of the Member for Fairfax, [Alex Somlyay](#), talking with locals about key environmental issues, including the controversial plans for the Traveston Dam.

Peter Garrett has only a matter of weeks to either give the giant evaporation pond the nod or the shake.

I tabled a speech on behalf of more than 5,000 people who have posed serious questions about the project.

- Check out the speech I made to Parliament as I tabled the petition, [here](#).
  - Read the [joint media statement](#) with Nationals Leader and Member for Wide Bay, [Warren Truss](#).
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## Independent investigation needed into big WA oil spill

There are growing concerns from WA fisherman and local residents about the big oil spill up the top of WA.

The risks were highlighted again in [The Australian](#) today.

Peter Garrett's been pretty invisible on this issue, adopting the 'out of sight- out of mind' principle.

I reckon there are strong grounds for an independent review into the environmental damage.

Here's what [I told](#) the ABC.

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## Efforts to save endangered Tassie Devil alive in Pearcedale

Many of us are very worried about the ghastly facial cancer taking out more and more Tasmanian Devils.

So I was really honoured to officially open a new centre in my electorate to protect and preserve the species.

Congratulations to Michael Johnson and everyone at the [Moonlit Sanctuary at Pearcedale](#), about an hour out of Melbourne. I would certainly encourage you to make your way down and see these fantastic Aussie icons.

- Here's what was reported in [The Age](#) online.
  - Check out my [video blog](#) from the sanctuary.
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## Supporting the campaign for an Ambulance Station in Grantville and the work of local midwives

I am right behind a campaign by residents of Grantville on the Bass Coast for a dedicated ambulance station.

It's a cause I've been highlighting both to local media and to parliamentarians in Canberra. [Here's the speech](#).

I've also [been highlighting](#) the great work of our midwives and the closure of the Rosebud midwifery unit.

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