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FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS



SHADOW MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN WATER

FLINDERS e-NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2008

Welcome to the first edition of the *Flinders e-Newsletter*. Each month I will present a snapshot of recent local and national environmental issues. It will also be a terrific opportunity to highlight some of the key events within our local community and the people who make it such a great place to live and work.

We lead busy lives so this newsletter will be short and succinct, with a selection of topics and links to media statements, speeches, audio, videos and related information.

1. Cranbourne Methane Gas Incident: Time for a National Plan

I have called for a national inquiry to help prevent a repeat of the planning debacle impacting residents of the Brookland Greens Estate at Cranbourne, Victoria.

[Read my media statement](#) and the transcript of my [interview with the ABC Radio's AM Program](#) which calls for immediate and long term action.

See [my letter](#) to the Environment Minister which seeks a strategy to deal with landfill methane gas.

2. Garrett Approves North-South Pipeline Project

While the Climate Change Minister is buying farms for their water, the Environment Minister is approving a new pipeline that would divert water from the Murray. [See my statement.](#)

Why I oppose 'Pete's Pipeline' is explained in [my speech to Parliament.](#)

The Federal Opposition has urged the Rudd Government not to turn its back on the people of the Murray Lower Lakes and Coorong. [Read my statement here.](#)

Local environmentalists have also raised concerns that works carried out at the site of a proposed weir above the Lower Lakes breach federal laws. See [my transcript.](#)

3. Liberalism and the Environment

Boosting forests is the fastest way in which Australia can help the world to curb global warming. [Read my response to the Garnaut Supplementary Draft Report.](#)

The conservative parties globally have traditionally shown leadership on the environment over the last century. [Read my speech](#) to the NZ National Party. [See the video.](#)

4. Peter Garrett's Solar Panel Means Test

Peter Garrett still claims his solar panel means test rebate is not hurting the solar industry or consumers. He is wrong and the figures he uses are distorted. [Details here](#)

On behalf of the Coalition I introduced a Private Member's Bill which would enable Parliament to throw out Mr Garrett's solar means test. [Read the speech here.](#)

A Senate Inquiry investigated the means test. Read the Coalition Members Dissenting Report from page 31 [here.](#)

The Government's solar means test saw jobs and millions of dollars in contracts lost. The Coalition has actively supported the campaign to save an industry from freefall. [See the video](#) on my home page.

5. Green Corps R.I.P.

One of Australia's most successful and popular environmental programs is set to be axed by the Rudd Government.

Phillip Island's Koala Conservation Centre and nearby areas of natural habitat are being supported by Green Corps. [Read](#) a great local example of Green Corps in action.

Details about the forthcoming demise of the program can be found in [a statement](#) by my colleague, Andrew Southcott.

6. Plans for a desalination plant at Kilcunda - Cleaning up Gunnamatta instead

Reports that the Victorian Brumby Government may renege on its promise to close the outfall on Mornington Peninsula are alarming for residents and the environment. [Read why](#).

The water priority for Victoria should be to clean up Gunnamatta Outfall and recycle the 150 billion litres of wastewater dumped off our coast each year. [See the speech](#).

7. The fight against the Crib Point bitumen plant is continuing

Local residents and community groups are aghast at plans for a bitumen plant on the Mornington Peninsula. Read why the community is upset about the plant [here](#).

8. A whale of a season of broken promises

As the next whaling season approaches where is Peter Garrett's international court action and his much-vaunted whaling envoy? [Australians had a recent reminder](#).

[Listen](#) to my interview with Nick McCallum on 3AW.

9. Footy and Netball Finals – Time to Cheer Not Just the Players

As local teams go into the finals it's time to acknowledge the work of the many volunteers at both club and league level. [Read my speech here](#).

10. Energy Efficiency: Preparing Small Business

Read how small businesses can play a part in reducing emissions – and save on energy costs – with energy efficiency tips in our [small business newsletter](#).

I hope you have found the inaugural Flinders e-Newsletter interesting and informative. I welcome your feedback. If you have colleagues or friends who would like to receive this newsletter on a regular basis, they can sign up through my website, www.greghunt.com.au. Also, 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](#).

Best wishes,



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

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