



# Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS



SHADOW MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

## FLINDERS e-NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2008

Welcome to the second edition of the *Flinders e-Newsletter*. I particularly want to thank the many people who provided positive and constructive feedback on the first edition.

Since then, I was delighted to have been appointed by Malcolm Turnbull to an expanded water portfolio. This includes responsibility for both urban and rural water issues and matters relating to the Murray-Darling Basin.

Within days of taking up this new role, I journeyed to Bourke to visit Toorale Station, which was the subject of last week's story on ABC Television's 4 Corners concerning water buy-backs - ['Buying Back the River.'](#)

The appointment also prompted my decision to travel the length of the Murray-Darling Basin. That is the subject of my first link, in a newsletter which deliberately places a strong emphasis on water.

### 1. Tour of the Murray-Darling Basin

Decisions on the future of the Murray Basin should not just be based on briefings from Canberra. That's why I am meeting with farmers, residents, business owners and industry groups along the length of the river system.

This week Senator Fiona Nash and I will set out on a six-day, 3,000 km journey down the Basin to engage with the very people who live, work, breathe and rely on the Murray-Darling region. [Read more.](#)

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### 2. Visit to Toorale Station near Bourke – an example of a bad water buy-back

The Government's plan for the Murray-Darling currently revolves around an ad hoc buy-out of productive farms. I recently visited Toorale Station, from where I [spoke with Steve Price](#) of 2UE.

By contrast, the Coalition's plan is founded on delivering water efficiency savings with \$6 billion in water infrastructure works. [Read the story here.](#)

On behalf of the Coalition, I put the case for a greater focus on water infrastructure in a recent Canberra [media conference](#).

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### 3. Government votes down our \$50m Murray Lower Lakes Assistance Package

In Parliament, on behalf of the Coalition, I also proposed a \$50 million assistance package to support the people of the Murray Lower Lakes. Peter Garrett led the Government in [voting it down](#).

[Read the transcript](#) of an interview with Leon Byner on Adelaide's 5AA following the vote.

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### 4. Time for a Water Revolution

If Australia is to overcome its water shortages, we need to have a water revolution, as I argued in an [opinion piece](#) published in *The Advertiser* earlier this month.

Last week I spoke about the need to clean up and recycle the water at Gunnamatta with Ali Moore on 774 ABC Radio. [Listen here.](#)

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### 5. Traveston Crossing Dam – The Wrong Dam in the Wrong Place

Read how the Queensland Government's plans to build a shallow dam over productive farming land in an area home to endangered animals led to a mutiny against Premier Bligh. [More.](#)

I also spoke about the issue during a business address in Brisbane earlier this month, which attracted [this report](#).

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## 6. International Financial Crisis – Who’s Really Setting the Agenda?

It is Malcolm Turnbull who has been setting the agenda on Australia’s response to the international financial crisis, as I put to Leigh Sales in a recent Lateline debate. [Watch it here](#).

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## 7. Emissions Trading – Just One Part of Our Three Pillars Approach

Debate is also focusing on what impact the financial crisis will have on Kevin Rudd’s emissions trading plan and how it might affect the Australian economy. Read my [opinion piece](#) on the ETS.

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## 8. Keeping the Assets of Warley Hospital on Phillip Island

Following the closure of Phillip Island’s Warley Hospital earlier this year by the Rudd Government, the facilities are now being carved up and sold off. It’s a tragic end for the hospital, [as I told Parliament](#).

It’s not the only popular local facility making a final farewell. The Arthurs Seat chairlift is also being dismantled. [Read my call](#) for help to rebuild this Mornington Peninsula landmark. [See the news story](#).

On another local health issue, I paid tribute to a number of Mornington Peninsula polio support groups who have been very active during Polio Awareness Month in October. [See my speech](#).

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## 9. Hastings Aged Care Centre’s Water-Saving Project

A Hastings aged care facility is set to save enough water to fill three Olympic-sized swimming pools every year. [Read how](#).

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## 10. New Edition of the *Flinders Community News*

The Spring edition of my Flinders electorate newsletter starts arriving in local letterboxes this week. To read more about the great work going on in the electorate, [click here](#).

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### Post script to last month’s story on whaling

Last month I reminded readers that it had been nearly a year since Peter Garrett promised to announce a whaling envoy to confront Japan on this abhorrent practice.

Well last week, following [this media statement](#), and [this media article](#), Mr Garrett finally announced his envoy. However, the [repeated promises](#) of international court action remains unfulfilled.

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Once again, I hope you found this newsletter interesting as I continue to work for our community and develop positive and constructive policies on climate, environment and water issues.

As always, 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](http://www.greghunt.com.au). 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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