



# Media Release

## The Hon Greg Hunt MP

**Federal Member for Flinders  
Shadow Minister for Climate Action,  
Environment & Heritage**

Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2013

### **Mornington Peninsula Green Army Project**

The Mornington Peninsula will become home to one of the first Green Army projects in Australia under the Coalition's Green Army plan.

If a Coalition Government is elected, work will begin next year on the *Mornington Peninsula Green Army Project*.

The project will have four main strands:

- Mt Martha-Balcombe Creek Nature Trail habitat enhancement
- Southern Peninsula Foreshore and Creek rejuvenation
- Red Hill South Biolink and Community Reserve creation
- Mornington Peninsula War on Weeds

The Green Army comprises teams of ten young environmental trainees who will work on local community-based environmental projects across Australia for six-month periods as part of the new Coalition program.

This highly-effective program will offer our young people significant training and practical experience in the vital area of environmental management.

At Mt Martha, environmental trainees will focus on revegetating the Balcombe Creek Nature Trail, as well as creating habitats for wildlife, installing bird boxes, water quality monitoring and protection for listed species.

On the Southern Peninsula, a primary focus will be on work to remedy beach erosion and rehabilitate foreshore land at Portsea, Sorrento, Blairgowrie, Rye and Rosebud.

Workers will also rehabilitate creek banks at Chinamans Creek and Drum Drum Alloc Creek at Rosebud.

At Red Hill South, the Green Army will work to create a 3.3km Biolink along Point Leo Road between Paringa Road and Frankston-Flinders Road. Work will consist mainly of weed removal and revegetation to enhance the area's high conservation value.

The project will also include landscaping and associated environmental work on a proposed new community reserve at the corner of Point Leo and Red Hill-Shoreham roads.

[www.greghunt.com.au](http://www.greghunt.com.au)

Across the Mornington Peninsula, the team will also wage a War on Weeds, eradicating weed infestations along some of the major roads and allowing indigenous vegetation to flourish.

The *Mornington Peninsula Green Army Project* will be carried out in consultation and conjunction with the Mornington Peninsula Shire, Balcombe Estuary Rehabilitation Group, Red Hill Community Action Group and local Landcare groups.

This project will greatly improve the Peninsula's natural environment, while giving local youngsters valuable training and a solid work foundation on which to build a future career.

Trainees will gain wide-ranging experience in conservation and land management practices including:

- Coastal stabilisation
- Creek bank regeneration
- The propagation and planting of native seedlings
- Weed control
- Wildlife conservation

We want to help our local young people improve their environment while gaining vital employment experience.

This program will help local youngsters overcome employment barriers and deliver a positive contribution to the community.

It is about jobs and training for ten young people. It is also about creating an environmental benefit that everyone can enjoy.

Local young people taking part in the project will be provided with a training wage for the duration of the project.

Once established across Australia, the Green Army program will provide a rolling workforce of up to 15,000 trainees dedicated to local environmental projects.

**Media contact: Tina McGuffie on 03 5979 3188 or 0417 361 732**