

Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS

SHADOW MINISTER FOR CLIMATE ACTION,
ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

Flinders Small Business Report 2013



*with Norm Cleland, General Manager
of Peninsula Hot Springs – see page 9*



PO Box 274, Hastings Vic 3915 · Tel: (03) 5979 3188 · Fax: (03) 5979 3034
Email: greg.hunt.mp@aph.gov.au · Website: www.greghunt.com.au

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Supporting Small Business



*discussing threats to Australia's apiary industry with
David Severino of Phillip Island Honey*

A Better Deal for Small Business

Figures released by ASIC show that 10,742 businesses shut their doors in the year to January 31. Higher costs and increased regulation under Labor are clearly taking a toll.

If elected, a Coalition government will aim to double the existing annual rate of small business growth, adding approximately 30,000 new small businesses each year.

To better support small businesses, the Coalition will:

1. **Scrap the Carbon Tax** to reduce the sky-rocketing power costs small businesses have to pay with no compensation.
2. **Cut red tape by \$1 billion each year** and implement a comprehensive Deregulation Agenda.
3. **Reduce lawlessness in the workplace** by re-establishing the Australian Building and Construction Commission.
4. **Build better infrastructure**, with a special emphasis on reducing the bottlenecks on our gridlocked roads and highways.
5. **Simplify payment of superannuation contributions** by allowing small businesses to remit compulsory super contributions for workers by a single payment to the ATO.
6. **Establish a review of competition laws** to ensure that small business can compete fairly with big business.
7. **Support the rights of independent contractors and family businesses** by preserving their tax treatment.
8. **Extend unfair contract protections to small business** to give them the same rights as consumers.
9. **Help small business attract and retain workers with a 'fair dinkum' paid parental leave scheme** which levels the playing field with big business and the public sector.
10. **Ease the burden on employers** by making government responsible for directly paying employees under the paid parental leave scheme.

These initiatives will lift productivity, cut compliance costs and help local small businesses prosper.

Protecting Small Business



at the opening of a new Priceline Pharmacy at Cowes

Small Business Wants the Carbon Tax Gone

The latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics reveal that 97.2 per cent of the 13,147 businesses in the Flinders electorate are classified as 'small'.

This means that the vast majority of local businesses have been forced to bear the brunt of the Carbon Tax without any of the compensation handed out to big business.

Small business is paying the price for Labor's Carbon Tax and they want it gone.

The latest MYOB survey has found that removing the Carbon Tax is a priority for 63 per cent of small to medium business operators.

It is no surprise this issue is near the top of the list of concerns for small businesses as their increase in power bills has proportionally been much higher and they have limited ability to pass on the cost.

Scrapping the Carbon Tax comes second behind the constant call for cuts to the BAS paperwork, on the list of top 15 priorities for small business.

The survey also follows recent figures that bankruptcies are increasing, with the Carbon Tax confirmed as a contributing factor for many.

The added cost has become the last straw particularly for manufacturers struggling to compete with their international competitors who don't pay a Carbon Tax.

I have heard from many small businesses struggling with rising electricity, gas and refrigerant costs due to the Carbon Tax. Many of these businesses are unable to simply pass on the costs to their customers.

If elected, the Coalition will make scrapping the Carbon Tax its first order of business to immediately take the pressure off small businesses.

We will then implement our Direct Action Plan to reduce Australia's emissions, including incentives for businesses to become more energy efficient.

Listening to Small Business



at Moonlit Sanctuary with principal Michael Johnson and Shadow Tourism Minister Bob Baldwin

Shadow Minister for Tourism Visits the Electorate

Tourism is a vital contributor to the local economy, with almost a third of all businesses in the Flinders electorate being wholly or partially reliant on tourism.

On the Mornington Peninsula, tourism contributes \$850 million a year to the local economy while the Phillip Island Nature Park alone contributes around \$64 million to the Bass Coast Shire economy.

It was therefore a great pleasure to host Shadow Tourism Minister, Bob Baldwin, on a recent tour of two of the electorate's tourism icons: Moonlit Sanctuary and Peninsula Hot Springs.

Bob and I met with the executive chair of Mornington Peninsula Regional Tourism Board, Tracey Cooper, along with representatives of local tourism enterprises including Searoad Ferries, The Enchanted Maze Garden and Peninsula Hot Springs.

Among the items discussed were plans for a shuttle bus connecting tourism and accommodation venues on the Peninsula and the need for more backpacker accommodation.

At Moonlit Sanctuary we met with members of the newly-formed Adventures in Nature group, set up to promote and expand nature-based tourism on the Mornington Peninsula.

The group, which includes Moonlit Sanctuary, Bayplay Adventure Tours, Hummingbird Eco Retreat, The Enchanted Maze Garden and Polperro Dolphin Swims, is seeking support to market the Peninsula as an eco-tourism destination.

Mornington Peninsula Shire's manager of libraries, arts and culture, Geoff Carson, also discussed the Shire's Arts and Culture Strategy and plans to boost the Peninsula's winter visitor numbers.

Local Small Business Success Stories



with Greg and Dorinda Mercier at Acol Skylights, Somerville

Acol Skylights

Under the direction of principals Greg and Dorinda Mercier, Acol Skylights & Roof Windows has grown from a small backyard concern into a thriving manufacturing business. Founded at Somerville in 1990, Acol manufactures a unique range of technologically advanced skylights and roof windows, employing dozens of local workers.

Acol specialises in using high grade materials to create hand-crafted products specifically designed for Australian conditions. Its products are distributed throughout Australia by a network of more than 1200 resellers and it has recently begun exporting to New Zealand.

Flinders Electorate Scoops the Victorian Tourism Awards

Local tourism businesses dominated the recent Victorian Tourism Awards, garnering five wins plus two inductions into the Hall of Fame.

Peninsula Hot Springs won awards for best tourist attraction and for health and wellbeing tourism, and was inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Also inducted into the Hall of Fame was Max's at Red Hill, which won the award for tourism restaurants and catering services.

Other winners included Moonraker Dolphin Swims, which scooped the award for eco-tourism, and Blue Moon Cottages at Rye, which won the award for best standard accommodation.

The list of local award finalists included:

- Peninsula Stand Up Paddles
- Searoad Ferries
- Phillip Island and Bass Coast Visitor Information Centre Network
- The Enchanted Maze Garden
- Phillip Island Chocolate Factory
- Maru Koala and Animal Park
- Stillwater at Crittenden
- The Island Accommodation

Congratulations to our local tourism operators and staff for their efforts in making the Flinders electorate the premier tourism destination in Victoria.

Helping Small Business Prosper

Cutting Red Tape

The Coalition has a plan to tackle the over-regulation that is strangling small business and driving up costs.

Local businesses often raise concerns with me at the increasing level of red tape and paperwork required just to keep the doors of their business open.

Under the Gillard Labor Government, business has been burdened with more than 20,000 new regulations and a reduction of just 104.

We will help get businesses growing again by **cutting red tape costs to business by \$1 billion each year.**

Measures will include:

- ✓ **Making the administration of superannuation payments easier** by allowing employers to send one payment to the ATO, which will then distribute the funds.
- ✓ **Giving employers the option of having the government manage the administration of the Paid Parental Leave scheme.** Employers can choose to have the government pay employees directly.
- ✓ **Requiring Parliament to spend two days each year on removing legislation and regulations**, rather than adding to them.



opening a new business -
Ace Oven Repairs in Hastings

Small Business Survey

As your Federal Member, I am committed to ensuring a better deal for our local business community.

I receive a lot of feedback and suggestions through meetings, community functions and phone calls and your input does make a difference.

I am keen to keep in touch with the day-to-day issues affecting Flinders small businesses. I would be happy to visit your business and discuss issues of concern with you.

A consistent issue is the lack of adequate broadband coverage. That is why I invited Shadow Minister for Communications and Broadband Malcolm Turnbull to visit the electorate late last year to hear your concerns first hand. The Coalition has a plan to deliver the NBN sooner and at far less cost.

Another issue is the impact of the Carbon Tax on electricity bills, which is making it more expensive than ever to run a small business.

Please indicate whether you share these or any other concerns by completing the short survey overleaf and returning it to my office.

Kind regards

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continued over....



Small Business Survey

Please number the most important issues to you:

- ☐ Rising business costs caused by the Gillard Government's Carbon Tax
- ☐ Changes to unfair dismissal laws
- ☐ Union interference in the workplace
- ☐ Inadequate access to high speed broadband
- ☐ Cost and availability of finance
- ☐ Cutting and simplifying 'red tape' for small businesses
- ☐ Unfair trade practices of big business
- ☐ Increased costs for business with the proposed increase in compulsory superannuation payments
- ☐ In your view what is the most important action I could take to help small business *(please specify)*

Would you like me to visit your small business?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like to receive regular updates on what is happening in Flinders via email?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

OPTIONAL *(Please tick your choice)*

Generally, would you say:

I *always* support the following party

- ☐ Liberal ☐ The Nationals ☐ Labor
☐ Greens ☐ Family First ☐ Independent

OR I *usually* support the following party

- ☐ Liberal ☐ The Nationals ☐ Labor
☐ Greens ☐ Family First ☐ Independent

To enable me to keep in regular contact and promote your small business in the Flinders community, I encourage you to complete the details below:

Owner/Manager: _____

Business Name: _____

Address _____

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____

Email: _____

**Simply fax back to the Hon Greg Hunt MP on (03) 5979 3034
or post to PO Box 274, Hastings Vic. 3915**