

Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS

SHADOW MINISTER FOR CLIMATE ACTION,
ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

Flinders Small Business Report 2011

*with Garry Cox, Gill Hardman and members of the team
at G.J. Gardner, Cowes- See Page 9*



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Supporting Local Business



Small businesses face an uncertain future due to the Gillard Government's proposed carbon tax

discussing carbon tax concerns with Simon Boodle of Sunbather Pool Technologies of Hastings



How the Carbon Tax Will Affect Local Businesses: Case Study 1

I met recently with Simon Boadle of Hastings-based Sunbather Pool Technologies, a local business success story that employs 60 people across three states.

The company manufactures solar heating systems for swimming pools, as well as pool covers and rollers. It has been at the forefront of the industry for 30 years in terms of innovation and development and its products are sold throughout Australia.

Sunbather is one of many local manufacturing businesses whose livelihoods are uncertain as a result of the Gillard Government's proposed carbon tax.

A carbon tax would push up the cost of the petrochemical-based raw material that Sunbather uses, push up the cost of freighting parts and materials between each stage of production and push up the cost of energy used during the manufacturing process.

Sunbather faces intense competition from China and fears an increase in manufacturing costs resulting from the carbon tax may make it unviable. The only alternative would be to close its manufacturing operations and switch to importing products from overseas.

This would leave more than half of the company's staff without a job and result in the loss of vital skills and a reduced capacity for new innovation technology.

The company has written to the Prime Minister warning that every dollar cost increase to its product due to the carbon tax will be a gift to overseas suppliers who do not pay a similar tax.

The Government's proposed carbon tax might have the perverse effect of forcing one of Australia's most successful renewable energy businesses to move its manufacturing offshore.

Protecting Small Business

discussing energy-efficiency with Mick Carroll of Carroll's Injection Moulding at Hastings



***Please let me know
your thoughts on the
carbon tax by phone on
(03) 5979 3188 or email at
greg.hunt.mp@aph.gov.au***



How the Carbon Tax Will Affect Local Businesses: Case Study 2

Carroll's Injection Moulding is a small plastics manufacturing business based in Hastings since 1994.

Directors Mick and Marina Carroll employ six staff and manufacture quality plastic parts and products for a range of industrial and commercial uses.

Over the past three years the company has invested significantly in measures to reduce both emissions and waste.

Many of the company's moulding machines have been upgraded to models with variable displacement pumps, achieving energy savings in the order of 50%.

In addition, the company has purchased a new delivery truck that conforms to strict Euro 4 vehicle emission standards. It has also implemented a new recycling process that has dramatically reduced its waste bin pickups from once a week to once a month.

These changes have been made at considerable cost to the company without any government support or incentives.

Mick and Marina are deeply concerned about the impact of the Gillard Government's proposed carbon tax, which will increase their manufacturing costs significantly.

Their business faces stiff competition on a daily basis from countries such as China and India and they believe there is a real risk their customers will place contracts offshore if the Government's carbon tax goes ahead.

China's gain will be Australia's loss and carbon emissions will still be created – only the geography will change.

Rather than inflicting yet another tax on small business - with the real risk of forcing some businesses to shut down – we should be supporting and encouraging them to invest in energy-efficient machinery and measures that reduce waste and emissions.

Local Business Success Stories



*Working locally to help
businesses improve
economically*

*with Brad Bayne at the opening of the new
Telstra Shop in High Street, Hastings*



Getting an 'A' for Attitude

McCrae resident and author Julie Davey, a former nursing sister, wholeheartedly believes the adage 'prevention is better than a cure'.

Julie believes that the earlier we learn to focus on positive thoughts, actions and choices, the more readily it becomes a way of life and the more likely we are to lead happy, healthy and successful lives.

Her first book - *A for Attitude* - is now distributed in 10 countries and read by people aged from 4 to 94. She has since written several more books and is regularly invited to speak on the subject of positive thinking for health and happiness.

More information can be found at www.aforattitude.com.au or by visiting Julie's stall in the big shed at Red Hill Market.

A World-Class Venue on Phillip Island

Congratulations to Glen Isla House at Cowes on being named a finalist in The Australian newspaper's Travel & Tourism Awards last year.

Owners Madeleine and Ian Baker should be congratulated for creating a world-class tourism business while preserving an important piece of Phillip Island's heritage.

Glen Isla House is one of many great tourist businesses on Phillip Island.

Tourism is the lifeblood of the local economy on Phillip Island and we need better-targeted policies that support this vital small business sector.

For more information on Glen Isla House visit www.glenisla.com.au

Promoting New Local Business



*Working locally to help
businesses succeed*

*learning the art of jewellery-making with Bronwyn Pratt
at The Goldsmith's Gallery, San Remo*



Going for Gold at San Remo

Jewellery designer Bronwyn Pratt opened The Goldsmith's Gallery at San Remo in December 2009 to showcase her own unique work and the work of Australian jewellery makers, silversmiths and goldsmiths.

Within a few months the gallery had scooped two awards at the Gippsland Business Awards and had become a firmly-established local business.

Many of the pieces on sale at the Goldsmith's Gallery cannot be found elsewhere and Bronwyn can also be commissioned to design a unique piece of jewellery for a special occasion.

The Gallery also offers weekend and weekly workshops in a variety of jewellery making techniques. For more information visit www.goldsmithsgallery.com.au

Building a Bright Future at Cowes

Building company G.J. Gardner Homes has just celebrated its first year of operation, after opening the doors of its showroom at Settlement Road, Cowes on Anzac Day last year.

Headed by husband and wife team Garry Cox and Gill Hardman, the company specialises in building quality homes on Phillip Island and the Bass Coast.

Garry is a 4th generation builder with 35 years experience in design and drafting while Gill is an experienced manager who looks after the business side of things.

The company has recently expanded its team and takes pride in using quality products and the best local tradesmen and women.

Congratulations to Garry, Gill and staff on a great first year!

If I can be of assistance to you in your business, please contact my office on [5979 3188](tel:59793188).

Assistance for Local Business

Tourism: Facts and Figures

The tourism industry is a major driver of the local economy.

According to figures from the Tourism & Transport Forum, the Flinders electorate is home to 630 tourism related businesses such as cafes, restaurants, accommodation and takeaway food outlets. These are businesses that are most reliant on tourism for patronage.

In addition, there are a further 3097 local businesses that are tourism connected or partly reliant on tourism. Taken together, these businesses account for 30% of all businesses in the Flinders electorate.

In recognition of the importance of the tourism sector, the Australian Government provides grants under the TQUAL program to support and develop tourism businesses.

Grants of up to \$100,000 are available for smaller projects and up to \$1 million for larger projects.

Funding for the next round of TQUAL grants is expected to be announced in early 2012.

For more information call 13 28 46 or visit

www.ret.gov.au/tourism



Right:
with Matthew Bisogni at
Tuck's Ridge Winery, Red Hill South

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.

By knowing your views, I can take up these issues on your behalf. I appreciate your feedback and I am happy to hear from you at any time.

In order to keep in touch with the day-to-day issues affecting Flinders small businesses, I have initiated a Flinders Small Business Visit Program in which I can visit your business and discuss issues of concern to you.

Please complete the short survey overleaf and return to my office.

Kind regards



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 and return of 'go away money'
- ☐ Increased union interference in the workplace
- ☐ Reduced flexibility and increased costs under recent award modernisation
- ☐ Cost and availability of finance
- ☐ Cutting and simplifying 'red tape' for small businesses
- ☐ Unfair trade practices of big business
- ☐ Threat to treat independent contractors/self employed as 'employees'
- ☐ 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

☐

Democrats

☐

One Nation

☐

Labor

☐

Greens

☐

Family First

☐

Christian
Democrats

☐

Independent

OR I *usually* support the following party

☐

Liberal

☐

The Nationals

☐

Democrats

☐

One Nation

☐

Labor

☐

Greens

☐

Family First

☐

Christian
Democrats

☐

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