

Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS

SHADOW MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE,
ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

Flinders Small Business Report 2009



at Paradigm Hill sustainable winery - see page 9



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Recognising the Importance of Small Businesses



*Small business...
...the lifeblood of
our local economy*

discussing business ideas with Helen La Fontaine at Clyde

Small businesses are the lifeblood of our local economy and it is vitally important that we give them all the support we can.

The Coalition has developed a six-point small business action plan aimed at supporting our small businesses through these tough economic times.

1. Tax Loss Carryback

This measure will boost cash flow by allowing a two-year window for small businesses to offset the tax value of any operating losses incurred in the 2009 or 2010 years against up to \$100,000 of taxes paid over the past three years. It will enable small businesses to be refunded these taxes sooner.

2. Superannuation Guarantee Relief

To keep staff on the payroll, the Commonwealth should partially cover the Superannuation Guarantee Contribution for two years. The Commonwealth should contribute 3 per cent in the first year and 1.5 per cent in the second year, for businesses with 20 or fewer staff.

3. OECD-best Practice Regulatory Burden

Cut red tape and time spent filling in forms and filing taxes by reducing Australia's overall regulatory burden to match and surpass OECD best practice.

4. One-stop-shop Regulatory Portal

This measure will deliver a one-stop-shop regulatory portal that provides online access to all forms and filings, regardless of which level of government imposes them.

5. Support for Family Businesses

The new small business service delivery agency will provide more support for small family businesses by providing advice on succession planning and family business professionalisation.

6. Cabinet-level Representation

Ensuring that small business has a seat at the table in Canberra that matches its importance to the national economy.

Supporting New Small Businesses



New to Business

Starting or buying a small business can be both exciting and stressful.

There are resources available to help those new to business negotiate their way through these uncharted waters.

The *New to Business Checklist* provides detailed information on what to do before you start or buy a business, as well as what you need to know when running a small business.

Topics covered include:

- ✓ how to obtain finance
- ✓ record keeping
- ✓ tax obligations
- ✓ franchising
- ✓ occupational health and safety obligations
- ✓ importing and exporting
- ✓ how to employ people
- ✓ where to go for advice and support

Copies of the booklet *New to Business Checklist* are available from my office.

Can AusIndustry Help Your Business?

AusIndustry oversees more than 30 business concession and grants programs aimed at helping businesses grow, take up new technology and conduct research and development.

Programs include:

- ✓ the LPG Vehicle Scheme
- ✓ the Commercialising Emerging Technologies grants, and
- ✓ the Tradex Scheme, which provides financial relief for businesses via exemptions from customs duty and GST

More information on what AusIndustry has to offer can be found at www.ausindustry.gov.au. An information brochure on AusIndustry is available from my office.

A Fair Go for Local Small Winemakers and Brewers



Red Hill Brewery

I recently joined Karen and David Golding at their award-winning business, Red Hill Brewery, to support their campaign - A Fair Go For Craft Beer.

The Goldings have joined forces with other small breweries throughout Australia in an effort to win parity with boutique wineries over the issue of tax.

In acknowledgement of the difficulties in starting a small winery, the Howard Government introduced a process that waives the excise on the first \$1.7 million of wine sales.

This exemption does not apply to boutique brewers, creating an unfair burden and limiting growth and local employment.

The inequality of alcohol taxation is depriving these small breweries of 25-35 per cent of their annual revenue.

For more information on the Fair Go for Craft Beer campaign, visit www.fairgocraftbeer.com.au.

Protecting our Local Wineries

Wine Grape Growers Australia executive director Mark McKenzie warned recently that any move by the Rudd Government to cut the wine equalisation tax rebate would do serious damage to the local winemaking industry.

The wine equalisation tax rebate was brought in to offset the impact of the GST on domestic sales and benefits hundreds of wineries.

At a time when the wine industry is battling the twin effects of drought and the global financial crisis, it is imperative that the Federal Government leaves this rebate alone.

With wine exports down and domestic sales suffering, any cut to this important tax rebate would be disastrous for some small or medium-sized wineries.

The Flinders electorate is home to dozens of small and medium-sized vineyards. I will vigorously oppose any moves by the Rudd Government to cut this important tax rebate.

Environmental Sustainability: Local Businesses Lead the Way



Working with local business on environmental sustainability and climate change impact

with club members at Flinders Golf Club at the club's almost-empty dam

Paradigm Hill Winery, Merricks

Ruth and George Mihaly began Paradigm Hill in early 2000 with a commitment to making the winery as environmentally sustainable as possible.

Since then they have instigated many sustainability projects such as the planting of over 2000 trees, the installation of rainwater tanks with a capacity of 150,000 litres and the construction of a 54-panel solar cell array capable of generating 13.85 MWh a year.

The winery's buildings feature a range of energy-saving measures including double glazing, thermal mass flooring and walls, insulation and the use of eaves and awnings.

Future projects including plans to plant 4000 native trees on 10 acres of unused land.

Paradigm Hill is a fantastic example of a local business taking a positive and pro-active approach to the issue of climate change.

For details on programs aimed at helping small business adapt to climate change contact my office on 5979 3188.

Flinders Golf Club

Faced with dry dams and an annual water bill of \$10,000, Flinders Golf Club has developed a plan to harvest stormwater run-off from local roads.

I met with members of the club recently to discuss the availability of grants to help finance the scheme.

While still in its early days, I am hopeful that together with South East Water we can develop a plan that meets the criteria for government funding.

If I can be of assistance to you in your business, please contact my office.

Entrepreneur Starts Local Media Business

A strong interest in community news and events drove Cameron and Melissa McCullough of Hastings Newsagency to create their own local newspaper.

Starting with the *Hastings News* just over two years ago, the McCulloughs now publish seven titles delivering local news to residents at Sorrento, Rosebud, Rye, Mornington, Frankston and Somerville, as well as Hastings.

With their own distribution network and a total circulation of 62,000, Cameron and Melissa see a great need for true community newspapers on the Peninsula.

Amazingly, the couple co-ordinate and produce all of their newspapers from a tiny office at the back of the newsagents in High St, Hastings.

Cameron and Melissa are a fantastic example of the entrepreneurial spirit that exists in the Flinders electorate.



Above:
with Cameron McCullough
at Hastings Newsagency

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 it to my office.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "greg hunt".



Small Business Survey

Please number the most important issue to you:

- ☐ Keeping interest rates low
- ☐ Reducing Government red tape for small business
- ☐ Keeping unemployment low
- ☐ Reducing local crime, especially graffiti and property damage
- ☐ Other
(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, do you consider yourself:

- ☐ A committed party voter
(please specify party)

- ☐ Liberal ☐ Labor ☐ National
☐ Green ☐ Family First ☐ Independent
☐ One Nation

- ☐ An uncommitted/swinger voter
(which do you generally prefer)

- ☐ Liberal ☐ Labor ☐ National
☐ Green ☐ Family First ☐ Independent
☐ One Nation

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**