



Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS

Working for our Community



Phillip Island & West Gippsland Highlights

Hunt lends his support to the San Remo Shark Fishing Industry



“I accepted an offer from local shark fishermen to work with them for a day to help me understand the difficulties faced by their industry.”

The San Remo Shark Fishing industry has been placed under pressure following decisions by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority.

I have been working closely with the representatives from the industry towards a fairer deal for shark fishermen.

Part of this process involved convening a meeting in late January between Wendy Craik, Chairperson of AFMA and San Remo fishermen, Steve Brockwell, Ray Dickie and Terry Legg.

During the course of the meeting the AFMA representatives agreed to undertake the following steps:

- to recommend to the Board of AFMA that it rollover the unused portion of 2001 licensing fees paid by fishermen for catching school shark up to maximum of 20% of their total quota;
- to explore the possibility of crediting fishermen for the lost value of any lease paid to other fishermen during 2001 for expanding their school shark catch

- to move towards multi-year quotas to ensure stability and security for fishermen; and,
- to examine the possibility of expanding the gummy shark total allowable catch through the use of long-lining rather than gillnets.

Through this meeting there has been genuine progress and a recognition of the needs, rights and concerns of fishermen. All up, the fact that this meeting occurred was a breakthrough and the results are promising.

I commend both AFMA and the fishermen for their willingness to work through the complex and contentious issues.

Phillip Island IT Skills and Regional Educational Facilities Centre

One of the key priorities in the Phillip Island and San Remo area is the need for increased educational opportunities, specifically in information technology.

One objective that Greg has been working on with residents is the creation of an Information and Communication Technology Centre at San Remo or Phillip Island.

Recently Greg chaired a workshop meeting between representatives from the Bass Coast Shire Council education institution and Malcolm Beasley from the Impact Creativity Centre. During this meeting there was discussion of the feasibility of an IT Centre.

An IT Centre would provide a range of new opportunities for local residents. Some of the key aims are:

- Providing access to registered IT courses within the Phillip Island & San Remo area
- Integrating IT within the community and helping to apply these technologies to both the community and business
- Demonstrating positive and practical uses of these technologies at the grass roots level and providing access to all types of training within the local region
- Providing training in these technologies to students at a regional level where there is a high level of unemployment and a low level of take up of IT from business.

Massive boost for Aged Care in Phillip Island and San Remo

The frail and elderly will benefit from an additional 67 aged care places at Warley Hospital and San Remo and District Community Health Centre thanks to increased funding from the Federal Government.

Funding of \$1,555,827 will provide 40 new aged care beds for Warley Hospital in Phillip Island. This includes 20 new high care places, 10 veterans high care places and 10 low care places. In addition, 27 Community Aged Care Packages that provide care to a growing number of people in their own homes have been awarded to the San Remo & District Community Health Centre.

Phillip Island and San Remo have been given long overdue recognition of their community needs. This is a tremendous result for Warley Hospital and provides a real boost for aged care to Phillip Island, San Remo, Coronet Bay and Corinella.



Greg Hunt with patient Jack Flanagan and Mr Ben Leigh, CEO of the San Remo & District Health Centre

Bid for Lang Lang Medical Centre and Locum Service for Koo Wee Rup

Greg recently met with the Lang Lang Township Medical Committee to review plans for a Medical Centre.

Plans are currently underway to build a Medical Centre in Lang Lang and Greg is helping the Committee apply for funding through the Commonwealth Government, while also pushing for new doctors and a locum service for Koo Wee Rup.

Grantville Rural Transaction Centre

The Federal Government has announced funding for a Regional Transaction Centre Business Plan for Grantville.

If the Business Plan is successful, the building of the Transaction Centre, which will provide services for Grantville, Corinella and Coronet Bay, will commence later this year.



Discussing plans for Rural Transaction Centre at Grantville with Councillor John Hulley.