

# Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS

SHADOW MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE,  
ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN WATER

# Flinders Small Business Report 2008



*with David Croucher and his team at the Baker Boys Cafe, Rosebud*



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# Climate Change: Preparing Your Business



*Helping you to make informed decisions*

*with butcher Kylie Hosking on Phillip Island*

Climate change is real and will have an impact on all of us. Changing weather patterns and the need to reduce our carbon emissions will alter the way we do business in the future.

With the introduction of a carbon emissions trading scheme in Australia planned for 2010, there is the potential for higher energy and fuel prices.

Local small business operators should begin now to look at ways in which they can minimise the impact on their business, save money and reduce their carbon emissions.

A range of simple measures can be implemented now at no cost and will save money immediately. These include:

- ✓ Keeping exterior doors closed on very hot or very cold days to prevent the unnecessary loss of heated or cooled air
- ✓ Turning off photocopiers, printers, computers and other office machines out of hours - this has the potential for significant savings in energy use
- ✓ Turning off lights in unoccupied rooms and making use of natural light wherever possible
- ✓ Turning off computer monitors when not in use during business hours - monitors can use up to 75 per cent of the computer's energy requirements

Other opportunities for energy savings can be made when refurbishing an existing building or designing a new one. These include:

- ✓ Installing energy-efficient lighting
- ✓ Increasing insulation to reduce heating and cooling costs
- ✓ Increasing the availability of natural ventilation
- ✓ Installing solar panels or solar hot water systems
- ✓ Choosing energy-efficient heating and energy-efficient office equipment
- ✓ Installing rainwater tanks
- ✓ Incorporating passive solar design features into plans for new buildings

# Helping Small Businesses Adapt to Climate Change



**For more information on any of these programs, please contact my office on (03) 5979 3188 or send an email to [greg.hunt.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:greg.hunt.mp@aph.gov.au)**

*with dairy farmer Les Hornby at Yannathan*

There are a number of Federal Government programs aimed at helping small and medium-sized businesses reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change.

## **Green Building Fund**

- ✓ Provides 50 per cent of the cost of retro-fitting commercial office buildings
  - ✓ Maximum of \$200,000 per building
  - ✓ Funds awarded on a competitive basis, priority given to buildings over 5000sq m
- Contact: AusIndustry hotline on 13 28 46 or [www.ausindustry.gov.au](http://www.ausindustry.gov.au)

## **Retooling for Climate Change**

- ✓ Helps manufacturers improve production processes, energy and water efficiency and reduce carbon emissions
  - ✓ Grants of between \$10,000 and \$500,000 available
  - ✓ Up to a third of the cost of each project to be funded
  - ✓ Provides advice on improving water efficiency
- Contact: AusIndustry hotline on 13 28 46 or [www.ausindustry.gov.au](http://www.ausindustry.gov.au)

## **Climate Ready Program**

- ✓ Grants for small to medium businesses
  - ✓ Assists the development of new projects that save energy and water and reduce pollution
- Contact: AusIndustry hotline on 13 28 46 or [www.ausindustry.gov.au](http://www.ausindustry.gov.au)

## **Climate Change Adaptation Partnerships for Farmers**

- ✓ Financial assistance to help farmers adapt to climate change and prepare for emissions trading
  - ✓ Promotes education, training and planning
  - ✓ Promotes the development of on-farm management tools
- Contact: 1800 638 746 or [www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/australias-farming-future](http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/australias-farming-future)

## **Climate Change Adjustment Program for Farmers**

- ✓ Provides professional advice and training
  - ✓ Provides grants for farmers choosing to leave their farm
- Contact: 1800 638 746 or [www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/australias-farming-future](http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/australias-farming-future)

# Expanding Local Business Opportunities



## *San Remo Fishermans Co-operative Redevelopment*

Work is expected to begin soon on a major overhaul of the San Remo Fishermans Co-operative site at the San Remo Jetty.

When complete, the site will feature an aquaculture education centre, improved facilities for local fishermen and a dining area with extensive views of the coastline.

The redevelopment was made possible by a Coalition Government grant of more than \$1.2 million, announced in September last year.

The funding formed part of the Howard Government's \$220 million *Securing our Fishing Future* package and represents a fantastic outcome for the local community.

The fishing industry has been an incredibly important part of local business in the region for decades and the San Remo Co-op has been integral to this.

With this new funding, the Co-op is able to build on its long history of service to industry and the community. The new project will provide more local jobs and create a terrific drawcard for tourists.

The funding would not have been possible without the hard work of Co-op members such as Kaye and Garry Walton and Steven Brockwell, who together developed a first-class proposal for the site.

# Support For Local Businesses



*Top Left and Bottom Left:  
Workers at Crib Point Engineering in Hastings put the finishing touches to a new 200 tonne boat lifter for WA.*

*Above:  
With the Marina Diagnostics team at the launch of the group's new radiology clinic at Somerville.*

## *Engineering its Own Success*

Crib Point Engineering is one of the many business success stories in the Flinders electorate.

The family-run firm, based at Beach Drive in Hastings, has been in operation since 1964. It began with the manufacture of farm machinery but soon branched out into the provision of engineering hardware and maintenance as first BP and then Esso arrived at Hastings.

The company has since diversified further and now manufactures a range of items including lifters, automotive parts and marine equipment, recently completing an order for a \$1.7 million boat lifter for WA.

The 200t lifter will form the centrepiece of a new Marine Services Precinct at the Port of Geraldton, partially funded by a \$1 million grant from the Coalition Government's *Regional Partnerships Program*.

The lifter was recently transported to WA and is due to be assembled soon. Once installed, local trawlers and other vessels up to 200t will no longer have to travel to Perth or Darwin for maintenance.

## *Helping New Businesses*

I am always delighted to be able to assist with the establishment of a new small business. Our local businesses provide jobs and much-needed services to the Flinders community.

In October last year I received a letter from the Marina Diagnostic Group, which was seeking to open a radiology clinic at Somerville.

The group was experiencing difficulties with the electricity supply to the proposed clinic site and I was able to contact the energy provider on their behalf and together we resolved the issue.

If you believe I can help with an issue connected to your small business, please contact my office on [\(03\) 5979 3188](tel:0359793188).

# Grow Your Small Business

A new resource to help small businesses grow and prosper was launched last year by the then Small Business Minister Fran Bailey.

The *Growing Your Business Checklist* brings together information from all levels of Government and covers issues such as:

- employee tax
- franchising
- exporting
- grants and assistance
- innovation
- legal obligations
- obtaining finance
- recruiting staff
- environmental management

The checklist is available free of charge from [www.business.gov.au](http://www.business.gov.au)

## Export Development Grants

The *Export Market Development Grants* scheme provides financial assistance to small and medium-sized businesses to help them develop export markets.

Applications for the current round of grants open on July 1. To find out more, visit [www.austrade.gov.au](http://www.austrade.gov.au)

A series of free coaching sessions are planned in Melbourne during July for those wanting to learn more about the scheme and how to apply for a grant. For details call Austrade on **13 28 78**.



*Above:*  
discussing business at Vitec Pty Ltd, a Somerville-based producer of natural fertilizers and stock supplements.

## 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*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "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)*

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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  Democrat  Independent
- One Nation
- An uncommitted/swinger voter  
*(which do you generally prefer)*
- Liberal  Labor  National
- Green  Democrat  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