



**MEDIA RELEASE  
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## **Flinders MP Greg Hunt announces grant of \$300,000 to the Western Port Biosphere Foundation**

“A re-elected Liberal National Government will invest up to \$300,000 over the next three years to support the continuing operations of the Western Port Biosphere,” Liberal Member for Flinders, the Hon. Greg Hunt MP, announced today.

“The \$100,000 per annum funding will allow the Biosphere to expand their conservation efforts, including continued on-ground work on monitoring native Southern Brown Bandicoot populations, the UNESCO Ramsar wetlands and local water quality,” he continued.

Biosphere Executive Officer Greg Hunt said, on hearing the news, “Very few places in Australia can boast of being in a Biosphere, but we can, and this funding would help secure long term stability for the Biosphere. We are extremely pleased that the Australian government is pledging to support the Western Port Biosphere in this way”.

“Biospheres are living laboratories for establishing a better balance between conservation and development. We need to find ways to meet our human needs without compromising the environment,” Greg said.

“The Western Port Biosphere’s Water Stewardship project is a great example of this work. Through the project, Ingham’s Chickens has become the first business in the world to achieve Platinum status under the standards established by the Scotland-based Water Stewardship Alliance.”

The Biosphere is about to roll out its project *Protecting Ramsar Values*, working with recreation boats users to protect the very values that make Western Port such an important place. “We have birds making an annual migration flight between here and Siberia and it is the rich mudflats of Western Port that allows this. The sea-grasses are fish nurseries, protect them and the next generation of fish is available to catch. The mangroves protect shorelines from erosion. The Biosphere Foundation works on the conservation of the Western Port environment and the Australian Government grant will help us continue this much-needed work,” Executive Officer Greg Hunt explained.

Duncan Malcolm, the Chair of the Western Port Biosphere Foundation said, in welcoming the announcement, that this was recognition of the importance that the Government places on the work of the Foundation. “The environment is way too important for politics, Mr Malcolm claimed, and I would be extremely pleased to see that this commitment is matched by the Opposition.”

**More information: Greg Hunt, Executive Officer, Western Port Biosphere Foundation, 0400 948 546**

**Available:** High resolution images of the announcement event

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