



Australian Government

The Charlton News

Greg Combet AM MP Federal Member for Charlton

March 2010



100 jobs for local defence industry



Greg inspecting new Wedgetail aircraft at Williamtown.

The Rudd Labor Government is investing in the local defence industry and this will create many jobs in the Hunter. Greg Combet, in his capacity as Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science, signed a five-year contract with Boeing to deliver a maintenance program for six Wedgetail aircraft to the Royal Australian Air Force.

The \$800 million contract will support 100 industry jobs in the Hunter region. This is great news for the RAAF Base Williamtown. The Wedgetail aircraft are being delivered progressively to the Base and this will help maintain RAAF Williamtown as one of the three premier RAAF bases in Australia.

The six Wedgetail aircraft are modified Boeing 737 aircraft fitted with sophisticated mission systems and very advanced radars. They will increase Australia's surveillance and air combat capability, provide air defence support for our naval fleet, and assist in civil operations such as border protection and search and rescue.

The Wedgetail aircraft when cruising at an altitude of 10,000 metres, for example, can maintain surveillance over a surface area of 400,000 square kilometres at any given time. Over a 10-hour mission (for example from Darwin to Perth and back), the Wedgetail will cover over 4 million square kilometres.

This is good news for investment and jobs in the Hunter.

Equipping kids with skills they need to get a job

The Rudd Government's Trade Training Centres in Schools Program will help young people in Charlton become equipped with the skills they need to effectively and competitively participate in the workforce of tomorrow.

The Newcastle Community trade training consortium, including Callaghan College – Wallsend Campus – received \$12 million to upgrade existing facilities and deliver training for a large range of trades.

The Newcastle Catholic Schools consortium, which includes St Paul's High School Booragul, secured \$6,815,909 to equip them to facilitate hospitality, construction, engineering, furniture making and hairdressing training.

Avondale School at Cooranbong received \$1,496,650 to upgrade existing facilities to deliver qualifications in Hospitality and Construction.



Avondale College School Captains, Bradley Brown and Lauren Farquharson receiving the exciting news from Greg.

Boost for local Landcare project

Wangi Ridge Preservation Board Landcare received more than \$18,000 from the Rudd Government's, **Community Action Grant**.



Greg inspecting Wangi Ridge with the Wangi Landcare group.

The Landcare group will use the grant to protect and enhance a recognised wildlife corridor. The group will adopt a whole system approach, including an integrated weed management strategy, a community biodiversity enrichment planting program, and community education through a Case Study, two field days and signage.

If you would like to get involved with this project, or any other Landcare project in Lake Macquarie, contact the Landcare Resource Office on 4921 0392 or email lro@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

Emissions Trading Scheme

THE FACTS

Climate scientists around the world are telling us that carbon pollution is contributing to climate change and that we must reduce pollution levels.

My office has received many enquiries about climate change. Here are some facts.

The Rudd Government accepts the climate science, and is committed to introducing an Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). The Government's scheme is called the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS)

Over 30 countries already have an ETS and others, including the United States are designing their own.

An ETS enables governments to set a target to reduce carbon pollution, and is the most cost effective way to achieve the target.

The ETS works by requiring companies which emit carbon pollution to buy a permit for every tonne of pollution they produce.

Buying these permits creates an incentive for companies to reduce their carbon pollution levels, and also an incentive to invest in renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

Revenue from the sale of permits will be used to assist households and industry adjust to the introduction of the CPRS.

There is no cost free way to reduce carbon pollution, and the Government has been open that there will be a modest increase of 1.1% in the cost of living over the first two years of the scheme.

Some industries with high levels of carbon pollution must be given time and assistance to start reducing their carbon pollution and to support

jobs. This is particularly important here in the Hunter.

Assistance to industry is essential to guard against the loss of jobs to overseas competitors.

8.1 million households will receive cash assistance to help meet the cost increases.

Importantly, pensioners and low income households will be assisted to fully meet cost of living increases. Middle income households will also be assisted.

The introduction of an ETS is a comprehensive economic reform that will encourage a long-term adjustment towards more energy efficient houses and industries, and investment in renewable energy like solar and power.

Please don't hesitate to contact my office if you would like further information.

38 local volunteer organisations share \$123,000 from the Government's Volunteer Grants

38 local organisations in Charlton received funding of between \$1000 and \$5000 from the Australian Government's Volunteer Grants initiative.

More than 6700 community organisations across Australia benefited from \$21 million in volunteer grants.

This funding is available to non-profit organisations to support their volunteers and encourage volunteering.

Every day volunteers are out in our local community doing what they do best– helping those in need, nurturing our environment and fostering our nation's sporting and cultural life.



Sugarloaf and Districts Action Group received \$3,470 from the Volunteer Grants.

Charlton grows under new redistribution

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has released the final redistribution of federal electoral boundaries for New South Wales.

The electorate of Charlton will increase in number by 1,201 electors which will transfer from Newcastle LGA in the Division of Newcastle.

Charlton's new boundary moves to the east to Croudace Street, Lookout Road and Charlestown Road at Lambton and New Lambton Heights.

1st Edgeworth Scout Group	\$3467.00
Australian Plants Society - Newcastle Group	\$1868.00
Bolton Point Tennis Club Inc.	\$1050.00
Boolaroo Orchid Society Inc.	\$3000.00
Brightwaters Christian College Inc.	\$5000.00
Cardiff Junior Soccer Football Club Inc.	\$2469.00
Cardiff Public School P and C	\$5000.00
Coal Point Progress Association Inc.	\$1750.00
Combined Probus Club of Cardiff Inc.	\$4650.00
Cooranbong Recreation and Equestrian Reserve Operating Committee	\$3900.00
Filipino Australian Society of the Hunter Valley Inc.	\$5000.00
Lake Macquarie and District Historical Society Inc.	\$2600.00
Lake Macquarie Crocs Masters Swimming Club Inc.	\$5000.00
Lake Macquarie Family History Group Inc.	\$2500.00
Lions Club of Wangi Wangi Inc.	\$3000.00
MacTalk Hunter Inc.	\$3180.00
Martinsville Rural Fire Brigade	\$4999.46
Morisset and Toronto Meals on Wheels Inc.	\$3400.00
Morisset United Football Club	\$4000.00
National Servicemens Association of Australia – Toronto Branch	\$4180.00
Probus Club of Rathmines Wangi Inc.	\$2000.00
Rotary Club of Morisset Inc.	\$4705.00
Rotary Club of Toronto Sunrise Inc.	\$1500.00
South Lake Macquarie Amateur Sailing Club Inc.	\$2499.00
South Wallsend Junior Soccer Club Inc.	\$2397.00
Southlake Community Services Inc. Morisset	\$1170.00
Speers Point Amateur Sailing Club Inc.	\$3000.00
Sugarloaf and Districts Action Group Inc.	\$3470.00
Cardiff Scout Group	\$4500.00
South Wallsend Scout Group	\$3420.00
Toronto Tidy Towns Inc.	\$2453.95
St Benedicts Catholic Primary School Edgeworth P and C	\$4450.00
Wakefield Rural Fire Brigade	\$1800.00
Wangi Wangi Mens Shed Committee	\$1937.00
Warada Aboriginal Landcare Group	\$4480.00
Watagan Equestrian Club Inc.	\$3500.00
Westlakes Seniors Computer Club Inc.	\$1584.00
Westlakes Stroke Recovery Group	\$5000.00

Local veteran receives the Australian Defence Medal



A proud Colin Brownhill receiving his Australian Defence Medal from Greg.

Greg Combet had the pleasure of presenting the Australian Defence Medal to local veteran Colin Brownhill.

The Australian Defence Medal recognises the outstanding contribution to our proud military history made by Australian men and women in uniform. Mr Brownhill served in the infantry, the military

police and in the Chaplaincy. He served in Vietnam, Singapore and East Timor.

Greg praised Mr Brownhill's service in the Australian Army, which is much appreciated by the community, and the Government. The ceremony was observed by distinguished Veteran, Mick Carroll and proud family members.

Anglican Care

Greg recently met with Mr Greg Flint, Chief Executive Officer of Booragul-based Anglican Care, to provide support for the new aged care facility being developed on the Scenic Lodge site, Merewether Heights.

Consequently, the Federal Government's Community Support Grants Program has approved, in total, funding of 55 Extra Service Places at the new facility. It is anticipated Scenic Lodge will help address the critical shortage of aged care facilities in this region.

Organ Donor Awareness

We recently celebrated Organ Donor Awareness Week. This year's theme is 'family discussion'.

I urge Australians who have registered their organ and tissue donation decision with Australian Organ Donor Register to check their details are up to date and talk to their family about their decision.

To check or update your organ donor registration phone 1800 777 203 or visit your local Medicare office.



Marion Britt discusses her Facebook page with Greg.

Seniors Surfing the net

Greg Combet had the honour of officially launching Anglican Care's first free internet kiosk at Booragul.

The Rudd Government has invested \$15 million in a Broadband for Seniors initiative.

The kiosk will enable Anglican Care's residents and clients to access internet facilities for free.

This material has been produced by Greg Combet AM MP using his printing and communications entitlement.

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