



1 DEGREE OF CHANGE – IT'S ABOUT EVERY ONE OF US

Green-collar jobs fit for our future

WE have all heard of blue and white collar workers but some may not be so familiar with the "green-collar workers" concept.

Despite tough economic times, Education Minister Verity Firth is working hard to launch a greenskills program for emerging "green-collar jobs" which are targeting a "green economy".

The green economy was identified as an immediate source of employment growth.

Hills Shire Mayor Larry Bolitho said that as Australia drove towards its greenhouse targets there would be a dramatic need for skilled people who could work in the areas of renewable energy, waste and recycling, water sustainability, biomaterials and energy efficiency.

"Our shire can play its part in helping to reach these targets and I'm sure that many of the 47,000 jobs we need to create for the future could be green-collar jobs," he said.

"A recent report has estimated that Australia could generate up to one million green-collar jobs by 2030, creating multi-billion dollar export opportunities so our shire will benefit from this new industry."

The program is being launched in conjunction with WPC Group and the State Government in response to a need to create opportunities and learn skilled jobs in the green economy.



Education Minister Verity Firth launches a greenskills program

GreenSkills is a partnership between business, the non-profit sector, government and education.

Cr Bolitho said the council hosted a business sustainability workshop in an effort to make businesses aware of the various grant resources available and what they need to do to build green skills.

"Council has an in-house business sustainability expert available to assist local businesses improve their knowledge in this area," Cr Bolitho said.

"Green-collar work fits very comfortably with our long held motto that the Hills shire is the garden shire."