



Hon. Joe Helper
Parliament House
East Melbourne Victoria 3002

Dear Minister,

On August 5th, 2008 you announced a proposal to relocate several staff from the Snob's Creek facility to Queenscliff, approximately 250 kilometres away. As one of many concerned community members and groups, I am writing to express my condemnation of your proposal.

To put this in context, 11 staff from Snob's Creek equates to over 35 people from the Eildon/Alexandra community. It means that 50+ years of continuous resident expertise in freshwater fisheries & aquaculture research in the Eildon/Alexandra region is going down the drain. It also amounts to a drain on expertise and research from the Eildon/Alexandra region. DPI staff at Snob's Creek perform specialized research which contributes to viable and sustainable recreational fisheries; and supports innovation in the aquaculture industry across Victoria. The staff are sure that the quality of this service will be impossible for the Government to maintain from the proposed coastal site.

These 35 people spend their salaries (*over \$Million 1 p.a.*) in Alexandra & Eildon; they buy their groceries, fuel and household-goods here, their kids go to school here; they include members of local sporting-clubs and societies, etc. As such, the proposed relocation of these staff will cause emotional and financial hardship to the families involved and inevitably impact detrimentally upon the Eildon/Alexandra community.

Recently, you announced you were committed to supporting regional Victoria and the communities which sustain the wealth of research, services and industries. Yet, in direct contradiction of this commitment, you propose to undermine the viability of the community of Snob's Creek without any reasonable or valid justification.

I call on you to demonstrate your purported commitment to Regional Victoria and retract the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Name:

Community Group (if applicable):

Address:

Email:

Signature:

Yes I want to be a "Friend of Snobs Creek"

Please keep me informed.