

For Agriculture – Victoria's the Place to Be

Friday, 08 February 2008

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has welcomed the commencement today of dredging in Port Phillip Bay saying that it's another example of Victoria's focus on agricultural advancement as farmers in states like South Australia are being held back.

VFF President Simon Ramsay said that the VFF's lobbying was paying dividends with many of the projects pushed by Victorian farmers taken up by governments in recent months.

"As Victoria moves forward on agricultural advancement, governments in states like South Australia are holding farmers back. Today's decision by the South Australian Government to keep their farmers in the technological dark ages by extending their GM moratorium has cemented their backwater status," Mr Ramsay said.

"Any South Australian farmers wanting to move over the border are very welcome to come."

"When it comes to farming, Victoria is still the jewel in the nation's agricultural crown. In the last few months the VFF has seen our lobbying efforts pay off on issues ranging from Channel Deepening, to the lifting of the GM Canola Moratorium; from the saving of the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show; to a \$223 million commitment on the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline."

"Farming plays a vital part in contributing to Victoria's wealth. Farmers are responsible for one third of Victorian exports, a \$7.6 billion contribution to Victoria's economy, and in excess of 82,000 Victorian jobs."

"The VFF has been a strong supporter of the channel deepening project from day one. Whilst we are acutely aware of the projects economic benefits, farmers are never blind to environmental risks. Channel deepening in Port Phillip is vital to securing, our jobs, our industry and the future of Victoria's economy."

"The VFF will continue to fight for the rights and interests of Victorian farmers. But for now at least, when it comes to agriculture - Victoria's the place to be," Mr Ramsay concluded.

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