

Westnet Webmail Plus

webmaster@tca.org.au

Letter to the editor

10 November 2010 11:16:07

From: trevor.brown@tca.org.au

To: letters@theweeklytimes.com.au

Reply To: trevor.brown@tca.org.au

Attachments: att380be.gif (2.4KB)

Notebook.jpg (2.9KB)

Honour jobs, not snobs

Michael Bond's letter (Relocate, retrain or retire loggers, 10 Nov) symbolizes and labels the public image of a Greens voter.

In East Gippsland alone there are 691 direct full-time jobs in the timber industry. Michael Bond, of Richmond – some 370 kilometres west of Orbost and far closer to a multitude of employment opportunities with a Centrelink office just up the road – trots out the old chestnut of “eco-tourism”. Mr Bond is so optimistic that he reckons towns such as Orbost can prosper from eco-tourism.

With vast expanses of national parks in East Gippsland already eco-tourism is not providing the silver bullet for timber jobs that have been lost in the past decade. It will not provide 691 full-time jobs the timber industry currently provides or the equivalent number of supporting jobs. Neither will eco-tourism provide the family income for 10% of East Gippsland's population as our recent survey revealed.

In further typifying Greens policies and thoughts of their supporters, Mr Bond overlooks where Australia will source its hardwood from. My guess is “anywhere”, as long as it is not from our own sustainably managed and rigidly controlled forests. I guess that gives the Greens policy makers some comfort at night.

Thank you, Mr Bond, for your views as you have reminded the many of us that do not dwell in the inner suburbs of our capital cities what the Greens really stand for – snobbery.

We implore all political parties and candidates in the upcoming state election to honour the jobs, not the snobs!

Trevor Brown

South East Regional Coordinator



Timber Communities Australia
79 Temple Street
Heyfield 3858
ph: 03 5148 2022
fax: 03 5148 2044
Mobile: 0418 489 362