



# DENIS NAPTHINE MP

## Member for South West Coast



### Electorate Office

104 Percy St, Portland 3305  
Tel: 5523 4366, Fax: 5523 3563  
Email: [denis.napthine@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:denis.napthine@parliament.vic.gov.au)

**All correspondence to:**  
PO Box 293 Portland 3305

Wednesday, 5 November 2003

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

### **Re: Labor threats to ban duck hunting in Victoria**

It is disturbing news for many people in rural and regional Victoria that a senior member of the Bracks Labor Government has proposed a complete ban on duck hunting in Victoria.

Even more disturbing is that fact that, so far, neither Premier Steve Bracks nor Environment Minister John Thwaites have done a single thing to repudiate the anti-duck hunting call.

Alarming, the move to ban duck hunting comes from none other than Labor's Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Geoff Howard – someone that most people would expect to have the interests of country people at heart.

Thanks to Geoff Howard, there is now a real danger that Victoria might follow down the path trod by other Labor states such as Western Australia and New South Wales, in completely banning duck hunting.

While many of Geoff Howard's country Labor colleagues are aghast at his suggestion, there has so far been nothing from either Premier Bracks, Environment Minister Thwaites nor – for that matter – Agriculture Minister Bob Cameron to reject Geoff Howard's call.

It is worth noting that this is the same Geoff Howard who recently – and stupidly – sought an extension of Daylight Saving in Victoria.

Clearly, Geoff Howard is not someone who is willing to listen to the wishes of the people he is supposed to represent in rural and regional Victoria. He is absolutely out of touch with country Victorians and, therefore, is completely and utterly unsuitable to be Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture.

Therefore, Mr Bracks should intervene immediately to sack Geoff Howard and replace him with somebody who understands country issues.

If Mr Bracks is not prepared to make an example out of Geoff Howard, then it will simply be further confirmation that the Bracks Labor Government does not care about the wishes of people in rural and regional Victoria.

I call on Mr Bracks, Mr Thwaites and Mr Cameron to once and for all, publicly reject Geoff Howard's call to ban duck hunting in Victoria.

Yours sincerely,

**Denis Napthine MP**  
Member for South West Coast