

# Victorian grazing ban for national parks to take hold

May 5, 2015  
Tom Arup - Melbourne Age



Cattle grazing in the Alpine National Park. *Photo: Justin McManus*

A ban on cattle grazing in national parks will take effect after the Andrews government secured enough numbers to pass the laws in the Victorian Parliament's upper house late on Tuesday.

The passage of the law – which prohibits grazing for any reason in the Alpine and a number of other national parks – came after a last minute scramble by the government to secure support from crossbenchers.

Earlier on Tuesday it was suggested Sex Party MP Fiona Patten had been wavering in her support for the bill. But she confirmed to Fairfax Media later she would vote for it, saying that meant it had enough numbers to pass.

The Andrews government put forward the ban after the previous state government held a controversial grazing trial in the Alpine National Park to test whether the practice reduced bushfire risk.

Many scientists and conservationists complained that grazing would cause significant damage to the sensitive alpine environment. The Andrews government canned the trial when it took power last year.