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VNPA plan irresponsible, short sighted

THE Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria has completely dismissed the latest VNPA plan, calling it "irresponsible and short sighted".

Releasing a 10 point action plan for the management of Victoria's parks, the VNPA has called for a permanent end to high country cattle grazing.

However, president of the MCAV Charlie Lovick said the idea of no longer having cattle in the High Country was like holding a bike race with no bikes.

"This plan sounds like the same old VNPA rhetoric," he said.

"They don't have a plan to manage the parks themselves; they just don't want us to have anything to do with it.

"We agree that there should be an overall parks management plan, but that we not only should be, but that we need to be, a part of that plan.

"No one knows those areas better than us, and no one cares more about the High Country than we do – we have spent the last hundred years proving that."

The VNPA has released their action plan in time for the state election, calling on voters to consider the future of the national parks when casting their preferences.

However, in contrast to the lobbyist group's

plan, four of the eight candidates support the continuation of cattle grazing in the High Country, including the local Greens candidate Marie Sellstrom, with an additional three candidates ambivalent about the issue.

Only one nominee, Sally Brennan, Australian Labor Party, gave a firm statement of no support.