

**MEDIA RELEASE** — 6 May 2015

## **STATEMENT FROM THE MCAV - BANNING OF CATTLE IN PARKS**

The Mountain Cattlemen are very disappointed that cattle have now been banned for any reason in Victoria's National Parks

This move by the Government was unnecessary. In December the Minister had the power to stop grazing and the grazing trials, which she did. It was a move to satisfy the VNPA.

This stunt has terminally damaged the heritage of the Mountain Cattlemen who have worked in the High Country for several generations.

After some recent investigation and discussions with three scientists, the MCAV is convinced that the two pieces of science used to justify the Government's ban don't stand the "pub test", let alone what happens on the ground during a bushfire. It is obvious the Labor Government move was simply politics.

We are critical of the Victorian National Parks Association for loudly opposing grazing as a method of gaining attention and public donations. It has totally ignored the major management issues facing the Alpine National Park and focussed on a few old cows which were doing a good job reducing fuel.

The VNPA have been ignoring the major issues facing the Alpine National Park. Only in recent months, after it was forced into commenting, has the VNPA earnestly started talking about issues like deer. We have been critical for some time that the VNPA has given lip service to planned burning while subtly opposing major burning programs privately and in fire forums.

The VNPA have cast themselves as self-appointed "guardians" of the Alpine National Park and the Cattlemen and other bush users will now hold them accountable for what happens next.

Alpine grazing is used as a part of park management in many countries overseas, it is a shame that it is not recognised here as good park management.

The MCAV publically thanks the Opposition and the Shooters and Fishers party and the Vote One Local Jobs party for supporting the Mountain Cattlemen with their votes in Parliament. We only needed one more vote!

The Cattlemen will be meeting in the near future to discuss the situation and their next Get Together will be at Merrijig in January 2016.

### **More information**

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