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ABN 25342519237 Reg No A2117
www.mcav.com.au secretary@mcav.com.au
*Shop 11, 20 Highett St
Mansfield VIC 3722
03 5779 1747

ALPINE GRAZING TRIAL GONE BUT HUGE ISSUES REMAIN IN THE HIGH COUNTRY.

Mountain Cattlemen and their supporters met last weekend to discuss the State Government's decision to stop the Alpine Grazing trial at Wonnangatta.

At the Cattlemen's Get Together at Mitta Mitta, the President of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association, Charlie Lovick, told the large crowd that they have to accept the reality of the situation.

"We respect the decision, but we don't agree with it because they did not allow the trial and the science to conclude" Mr Lovick told the crowd.

"We are bitterly disappointed that a 180-year-old tradition has been destroyed, however, our commitment to the High Country remains."

"The Mountain Cattlemen will continue to fight for better management of the High Country and continue to expose the sham management policies, such as locking up the land, that some environmental groups promote."

"Governments past and present have failed their duty of care to the High Country and we must take a new direction."

"Fuel loads have built up to unprecedented levels, and the entire alpine environment and its surrounds have either already burned deep into the ground or will do in the foreseeable future. Native species of fauna and flora are threatened by National Park policies, not protected."

"Despite what the green activists tell you, the Alpine National Park is the very opposite of "pristine". It is in terrible condition. Feral fauna and flora abound unchecked. Rivers are dying, forests are choked up and impassable to man and beast. Present, so-called green management strategies have failed. There has been far more destruction and deterioration in last 25 years since the Alpine Park was declared than occurred over the entire century and a half of alpine grazing and logging. The evidence is there for all to see."

“I am announcing that we wish to work with the new Government in the interests of the High Country if they are willing to listen to what experienced bush people have to say.”

“To that end, the Minister for Environment Lisa Neville has just confirmed her acceptance of an invitation to inspect the high country and to have it explained “through our eyes”, Mr Lovick said.

“High Country management needs a new direction so perhaps that direction may start with a meaningful visit by the Minister,” Mr Lovick concluded.

More information, www.mcav.com.au

Charlie Lovick, President 0429775510