

# Grazing decision is 'high altitude lunacy'

INDEPENDENT Senator John Madigan has slammed a recent state government decision on alpine grazing, calling it "high altitude lunacy".

The bill, banning cattle grazing in the Alpine National Park and national parks along the Murray, Goulburn and Ovens rivers, narrowly passed the upper house of state parliament last week.

The vote formally ended a scientific trial which began three years ago by the previous state government.

Senator Madigan said he had long-voiced his support for alpine grazing and called the decision to stop scientific trials "puzzling and absurd".

"Why stop research?" he asked.

"What are people frightened of?"

"The ALP-Greens coalition in Victoria is only interested in research that supports a pre-determined outcome.

"Pandering to a city-centric Green group-think betrays country people."

Senator Madigan said the bill belittled the heritage and knowledge of families who had been farming and grazing in the High Country for more than five generations.

"These families have shown they are true environmentalists," he said.

"When there's a bushfire up in the High Country, it will be these locals who will be on the frontline, not the Green group-thinkers in Parliament House," he said.

"City-centric politicians don't understand the issues and certainly won't be there to clean up the mess.

"I have always spoken out for the rights of local communities and country people.

"This decision is anti-scientific and it's anti-people.

"It's anti-community.

"It's high altitude lunacy.

"This is one more example of politicians making decisions from afar and ignoring decades of local knowledge and real-life experience.

"Country people feel betrayed on many fronts and it must stop."

Senator Madigan said he would be writing to Premier Daniel Andrews asking for the scientific trials to be continued.



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