



# MEDIA RELEASE

**Senator the Hon Ian Campbell**

**Minister for the Environment and Heritage**

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## \* EMERGENCY LISTING FOR VICTORIA'S ALPINE NATIONAL PARK

Victoria's Alpine National Park was today included on the Australian Government's National Heritage List under the emergency listing provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell, announced today.

"In making my decision to emergency list the Park I have taken into account all the evidence provided to me on this complex issue," Senator Campbell said.

"I have assessed the natural and historic values of the Park and I believe that both the natural and historic values may be of outstanding heritage value to the nation.

"I also believe the Victorian Government's decision to ban grazing in the Park poses a clear threat to the historic heritage values.

"I have therefore included the Alpine National Park in the Australian Government's National Heritage List.

"I now call on the Victorian Government to do everything in its power to protect the historic and natural heritage values of this important national icon.

"Under the emergency listing process I have requested that the Australian Heritage Council conduct an assessment of the Park against the National Heritage criteria. The Council must provide its assessment to me within the next 40 business days.

"After receiving the Australian Heritage Council's assessment I will then decide whether to permanently include the Park on the National Heritage List," Senator Campbell said.

**Media Contact:** Renae Stoikos 02 6277 7640 or 0418 568 434



<NewsCentre@aap.co  
m.au>  
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### **Media Release: Mountain Cattlemen's Association Of Victoria**

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#### **Mountain Cattlemen Welcome Federal Government Decision On Heritage Listing**

The **Mountain Cattlemen** of the Victorian High Country have applauded the decision by Federal Environment Minister, Ian Campbell, to issue an emergency heritage listing to protect **Alpine Grazing**.

**Simon Turner**, President of the **Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria (MCAV)**, said that he was gratified that at least the Federal Government understands what most Australians already know.

"The Federal Government is to be congratulated for intervening in this way, and demonstrating their appreciation for the unique cultural and heritage values represented by our way of life," Mr Turner said.

"We trust a fair and balanced scientific assessment of cattle grazing will take place this time - not the biased and bought opinions which misdirected and misinformed the Government-appointed taskforce.

"This listing can protect not just our livelihoods, but nearly two centuries of unique Australian history, as well as the music and literature inspired by the High Country.

"The warm response we received in central Melbourne yesterday makes it clear that our fellow Australians understand the significance of our plight, and believe that the State Government has made a bad mistake.

"We met with the Premier and Minister Thwaites yesterday afternoon to discuss the possibility of a compromise - including the idea of a truly independent review of the Advisory Panel's findings - but we were rejected without consideration," Mr Turner said.

"Both men still struggled to understand how blatant the lie is that 10,000 cattle would supposedly continue to graze in the State Forests. In reality, there will only be about 1,000 cattle. Having not physically been there themselves to comprehend it, we had to time to once again to explain how cattle can't read maps and don't understand they can't cross an invisible line.

Mr Turner said he believes that country members in the ALP caucus should act now to halt the Bill, which may be passed as early as next week.

"The so-called Country Caucus of the ALP needs to show some backbone, and stand up for their constituents and the people they represent in their electorates, not their Party bosses," he said.

The State Government claims that the intervention by their Federal counterparts is not legally binding, but Mr Turner declines to make a legal judgement.

"We are cattlemen. The lawyers on both sides will have to work that out," Mr Turner said.

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Contact:  
Kim Stoney  
(0417 503 000)

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*\* Email automatically generated for Profile "Alpine Grazing"*

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