

Edited by
PATRICK HAYES

LETTERS TO

Ski-developers, not cattle, are the biggest threat to the alps

from I. Stapleton

No doubt much noise will be made of the new, enlarged Alpine National Park. As someone who lives there most of the time, I suspect that 90 per cent of the associated changes will be bureaucratic ones and that little real change will take place on the ground that hadn't been planned already.

Unfortunately the same cannot be said for the repercussions of the recently announced enormous boosts and "go-aheads" given to the very people who have already demonstrated so clearly their incomparable ability to ruthlessly and permanently devastate our mountains — the ski developers.

They have even been given permission to rip Mt Stirling apart as they have already done so irreversibly to Mt Buller. And this despite the strong likelihood that our snow seasons seem doomed anyway as a result of our polluting ways.

Nothing threatens our precious mountain country anywhere near as much as the wholesale desecration by a modern luxury ski village. Grazing and logging pale into insignificance instantly when

you view the once magnificent peaks of Mt Hotham and Mt Buller in the mid-summer, for example.

People are the main threat to our mountains now — not cows or loggers. The mountains are steadily being compromised and ruined by those who want to visit them quickly and without hassle, discomfort or any real effort.

In the process, our children are being robbed of the very things that they will need most desperately in the future — space, peace and quiet, physical challenge and natural beauty.

Sadly, the Government seems happy to be part of the whole process. Tragically, it seems quite willing to cover it all up by calling places national parks and carrying on regardless.

Call it all a national park if you must, but please do something in ways that really count to help this very special asset survive for our kids. Future generations will look back on short-sightedness and hypocrisy now, with sadness and dismay.

Ian Stapleton,
Licola.

Resort would be a tragedy

from D. Seelenmeyer

I read Robert Colman's letter (5/5) with interest and agree with everything he said. It will be a tragedy if Mt Stirling, with the beauty of its virtually untouched countryside, is turned into a downhill ski resort.

It will also be a tragedy if a road is built through the bush beside the little Delatite river as has been proposed. It is bad enough that Mr Buller is being tizzed up to become a wealthy person's playground.

Why not let the Nordic skiers continue to enjoy the quiet enchantment of the natural bush. And further down, why not let families continue to enjoy tobogganing by the roadside or tramping on the untrodden snow among the fallen logs and trees, breathing the fresh damp sparkling bush-scented air — all for only the cost of petrol and a picnic lunch.

How can the Government rationalise destroying part of the Delatite valley and large areas of

PS

Letters should be no more than 300 words. Shorter letters will be preferred. All letters must be signed and the writer's name and address clearly written. (A box number is not sufficient.) Telephone numbers should be provided so that letters can be verified. A letter may be edited for reasons of space or clarity unless the writer specifies that it must be published in full.

Mt Stirling, with the ousting of cattlemen who have done minimal damage over many years in comparatively small sections of the great alpine region.

It would do well to use some of the \$600 million on trying to get rid of the blackberries and wild pigs (which destroy roots) and other destructive flora and fauna imports into this country.

D. Seelenmeyer,
North Balwyn.

Greenhouse effect will not be mild

from R. Greaves

Your feature article Greenhouse Opportunities continues the delusion that after temporary setbacks everything will be all right and once again the greedy can exploit the earth.

What everyone seems to think