

COUNCIL OPPOSES HOWQUA NATIONAL PARK

Mansfield Shire Council is strongly opposed to the proposed National Park along the Howqua River as recommended by the Land Conservation Council (LCC) in its latest recommendations.

In successfully moving council's submission to the LCC at last week's meeting Cr Roy Bostock said he was strongly opposed to a national park in the Howqua River area.

He pointed out that these parks can be very restrictive once they become established.

"It is important to maintain a buffer area between freehold country and national park," he said.

Cr Len Coker, in supporting Cr Bostock said: "Once these national parks get rolling they are like an octopus; they should not get the Howqua River area."

CATTLE

The council submission states that cattle grazing should be closely monitored till 1991 and then the situation reassessed.

Council feels that cattle grazing, particularly in the Bluff area, contributes to the attraction of the area.

Council believes the retention of cattle grazing in alpine areas

reflects the majority local view and that this view is not based on economic factors but because of the practical and emotional aspects previously submitted.

TIMBER

Council is concerned that the extension of the park system will inhibit the harvesting of hardwood because of the manner of administration of park policies.

Council objects to additions to the park system unless supported by policies which do not socially, physically or economically inhibit multiple use of alpine areas.

A letter from the Victorian Sawmillers' Association asking for council's support in its submission to the LCC was supported by council.

Journalists visit local properties

Mansfield came under journalistic scrutiny recently when participants in the 1983 Shell/RASV Pre-Royal Show Journalists' Tour came into town.

In a pre-show preview of agricultural matters, the journalists are being escorted to a variety of establishments in the rural area for a period of four days.

While in Mansfield, where they stayed at the Mansfield Motel, the journalists visited the property of Mr and Mrs Robert Ritchie, "Beolite", and the adjacent Delatite Winery super-

vised by winemaker Rosalind Ritchie.

On Wednesday, August 3, the journalists visited the property of Mr and Mrs Keith Andrews, Gundamain, to inspect mature tree propagation techniques.

The group was then scheduled to travel to the properties "Glentanner" and "Terangaville Station", which is at Yea.