

Serious ramifications of alpine park plan

... Cr Brewster

The public is becoming more aware of the ramifications of the creation of a large alpine national park, Cr John Brewster told Mansfield shire councillors at the last meeting.

Cr Brewster was presenting his delegate's report to the council of the deputation to the minister held recently.

The deputation resulted from the joint meeting of councils held in Bright.

They met with the Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Evan Walker, the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, Mr Rod Mackenzie and chairman, Land Conservation Council, Mr Sam Dimmick.

(Mr Dimmick died unexpectedly on July 9).

Cr Brewster said the cattlemen were disappointed and the timber industry felt it had been given short shrift.

Cr Brewster pointed to specific ramifications.

- An area of timber, once logged will be absorbed into the park,

- The L.C.C. states

that grazing will continue in the park but it will phase out and disappear in about 20 years.

- Grazing may be limited because of flora.

Cr Brewster described the legislation as largely a "con".

"They will all be phased out. One of the big concerns is the Act under which it will be vested.

"It will be under the National Parks Act - no dogs, no camping," he said.

He added that groups can then work further on having these restricted.

"We raised the socio-economic effects with the ministers and they replied that if there were problems the government would look into it and take responsibility for it.

"That's a lot of words. Living on benefits is no help to anyone," he said.

He then successfully moved that telegrams be sent to the premier and leaders of the other political parties expressing the council's concerns at the ramifications and effect on this area.

He also moved that a small committee be established to keep informed of the situation.

The committee nominated consists of Crs Brewster, Roy Bostock, Jack Purcell and shire president, Cr John Reardon.

Subdivisions approved

A proposal to subdivide land in Mansfield by P.R. James has been approved by Mansfield Shire Council subject to four conditions

Tennis court