

Conservation a key issue

CONSERVATION will become a Nunawading Province election issue.

While the Australian Conservation Foundation has yet to officially nominate a candidate, a major campaign to halt woodchipping in Victoria's forests and to ensure the passing of legislation for the Alpine national park will be launched at a conservation fair on Sunday at Box Hill Town Hall.

"A campaign strategy is well advanced, but we are reconsidering our options in the

light of recent events," the ACF director, Dr Geoff Mosley, said last week.

"The ACF is contemplating involvement in the Nunawading election."

A coalition of conservation groups organising the fair will run a public meeting where Nunawading's Mr Bob Ives, Senator Don Chipp of the Australian Democrats, and Mr Bob Brown from the Wilderness Society will speak on related topics.

"The ACF has called on the State Government to put the

Alpine legislation through both Houses of Parliament next week," Dr Mosley said.

"The foundation says if the Government doesn't do this it will place the legislation in great danger.

"The Alpine national park cannot be assured unless it is passed by both Houses of Parliament in July."

Dr Mosley said Premier Mr Cain must demonstrate the Government's sincerity on the matter "by acting next week."

He said the Alpine park deserved bipartisan support

because it benefited the community in many ways.

"We welcome Ms Janet Powell's (Democrats) statement that 43 per cent of the electorate considers conservation a key issue," he said.

"The Australian Democrats have demonstrated an acute awareness of the plight of conservation issues by reinforcing the fact that it is of major concern to the community.

"The major political parties must recognise that actions speak louder than words."



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NUNAWADING PROVINCE RE-RUN

No Democrat 'a risk'

Australian Democrat candidate Mr Michael Nardella told Sunday's public meeting in Box Hill that environmental issues were important in the Nunawading by-election.

Speaking during the meeting at which Australian Democrat leader Senator Chipp attacked the woodchipping industry, Mr Nardella said the Liberals had demonstrated irresponsibility by opposing the proposed Alpine National Park.

"Mr Cain's Labor Government, however, needs its back stiffened. The Alpine National Park is threatened not only by the Liberals but also by moves to open up Victorian forest areas to woodchip operations. Clearfelling woodchip operations, accompanied by wheat field reforestation techniques poses one of the greatest wild fire threats imaginable. If East Gippsland forests are opened up to woodchipping all surrounding forest areas will be threatened.

"The Otways, which are as frequently visited by tourists as the Gold Coast, are also under threat from woodchipping, with the Government under pressure to grant an export licence for 120,000 tonnes per annum from the Otway forests.

"People who care about the natural beauty of this State cannot risk a State Parliament without a Democrat to raise a strong voice for the environment. The Franklin would not have been saved without the



● Mr Nardella

Democrats World Heritage Bill in the Senate," Mr Nardella said.

The Australian Conservation Foundation and other conservation groups will stage a "conservation fair" at Box Hill Town Hall next Sunday, July 21, as part of the Nunawading Province by-election campaign.

ACF spokesman, Roger Smith, said the threat to Victoria's forests from woodchipping would be one of the main issues to be aired during the day.

Speakers will include Australian Democrats leader, Senator Don Chipp, Wilderness Society leader, Mr Bob Brown, and the ALP candidate for Nunawading, Mr Bob Ives.

Roger Smith said Nunawading province had one of the highest

Chipp at poll rally

concentrations of conservation conscious voters in Australia and through Sunday's fair they would be asked to cast their vote for sensible forest management.

Guest speakers will be introduced at 1.30 pm and the fair will begin at 2 pm. Details from Roger Smith 819 2888 or after hours 288 1546.