

Minister hits out at cattlemen's claim

The State Government today moved to quell the campaign by mountain cattlemen in the Nunawading election.

The Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, Mrs Kirner, strongly criticised a pamphlet being distributed in the electorate by supporters of the cattlemen.

And she warned that she may consider putting up the rent of the cattlemen.

Mrs Kirner said the Alpine National Park would only take away another one per cent of high country from the cattlemen and affect only one cattleman.

Mrs Kirner said cattlemen would still be able to use a million hectares of alps at very low rentals, ranging from 8 cents to about 30 cents per head of cattle.

"So if they can afford this type of literature I might consider putting their rents up to what anybody would concede to be a reasonable rent for anyone's livelihood," she said.

"No one else in Victoria has such cheap access to public land."