

Mountain cattlemen ride for the Liberals

By JENNY CONLEY

Mountain cattlemen rode into Croydon yesterday in support of the Liberal campaign in the Nunawading byelection.

The men distributed leaflets from horseback through suburban streets as a lead-up to a rally planned for Ringwood tomorrow.

The cattlemen are campaigning against a state Government plan to declare the whole Victorian Alps a national park over the next 10 years.

Mr Graeme Stoney, coordinator for the Mountain Cattlemen's Association, said yesterday that the association had been assured that the park would stay open to grazing.

But the association was convinced that once legislation was in force the Government would eventually succumb to radical conservationists and lock the cattlemen out, he said.

Mr Stoney, who has been taking cattle on to the high plains every summer for 37 years, said that if the Liberal Party won Nunawading the cattlemen would be protected by the Legislative Council.

"Right now, the high country is a perfect balance of national parks and multiple-use areas," he said. "Cattle have been run in the mountains for 150 years."

The association says it expects about 150 men and women to ride through Ringwood tomorrow urging people to vote Liberal.



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Mr Graeme Stoney pamphleteering in Croydon.

Picture: RAY KENNEDY