

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."