



The Premier, Mr Cain, surrounded by anti-abortion protesters at Box Hill yesterday. Picture: GEOFF AMPT

Democrat hits back over alpine park protests

Tasmanian Senator Norm Sanders told a rally of conservationists at the Yarra Bridge in Warrandyte yesterday that the election of a Democrat in Nunawading was essential to ensure a strong voice for conservation in the Victorian Parliament.

Senator Sanders said the Democrats supported the establishment of a continuous alpine park from Victoria to New South Wales and opposed the granting of licences for woodchipping native forests.

"The Alpine National Park Bill is the most important environmental legislation since the Franklin River was saved and will ensure the preservation of our spectacular high country," Senator Sanders said.

Democrat candidate Mr Michael Nardella said the national park would boost the tourism industry and assist small business in the area.

He also described the Mountain Cattlemen's Association's concerns that the park would reduce their grazing land as unfounded.

"The cattlemen have fought a romantic, unrealistic campaign in opposing the park, which will only

reduce their grazing land by five per cent over 10 years," Mr Nardella said.

The Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, Ms Kirner, also came out against the cattlemen yesterday, describing their support of the Liberal Party in the Nunawading by-election as "100 per cent political".

Ms Kirner said it was rumored that the state Opposition had promised the cattlemen restored grazing rights, denied to them under the Hamer Government, and called for the Opposition Leader, Mr Kennett, to "come clean".

Meanwhile, the Premier, Mr Cain, dismissed a demonstration of anti-abortionists outside the office of the Labor candidate for Nunawading Province, Mr Bob Ives, yesterday, as "just another example of pressure groups coming out of the woodwork at election time".

Mr Cain was in Box Hill organising 15 cabinet ministers to door-knock in the election area when he was confronted by demonstrators waving anti-abortion placards.

Mr Ives said: "The ALP policy

is clear, abortion is obviously a reprehensible method of birth control, but it is an issue which must be left up to the individual woman."

Murphy case in High Court

The full High Court of six judges sits in judgment today on the seventh member of the bench, Mr Justice Murphy.

The court, sitting in Canberra, will hear his constitutional challenge to the validity of the charge of which he was found guilty.

The Commonwealth will appear in the High Court to defend the validity of its Crimes Act, which he was charged.

Mr Justice Murphy claimed a magistrate who heard the trial proceedings against solicitor Morgan Ryan, a judicial officer of the Commonwealth, but was an administrative officer, was not the charge against him, alleging he was the outcome of the court is void.

...than insisting on any specific release of Mr Mandela is part of the unconditional



Picture: DAVID JOHNS

Dressed in protective helmets and lifejackets, well-known Tasmanian conservationist Senator Norman Sanders and the Australian Democrats candidate for Nunawading, Mr Michael Nardella, took an unplanned dip in the Yarra River yesterday. The two politicians were in the middle of the river campaigning for the Democrats for next weekend's Nunawading by-election when their kayak capsized. Both escaped unharmed and confident that the Democrats' support of statewide conservation issues could radically affect the election result.

PAGE 6: Democrat hits back at cattlemen over alpine park protests

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