

James A. Commins
President

"Araluen"
Ensay. Vic. 3895.

Mr. C. Hutchinson
6 Daisy Street
MURRUMBEENA. VIC. 3163.

Dear Mr. Hutchinson,

It has taken me some months to reply to your critique of my report in the last issue of Voice of the Mountains. I apologise for this delay and have often thought how best I should respond.

If I replied in length equal to your letter, I feel sure I would not succeed in changing your attitude and since I seem to be able to find very little time for writing I will be more brief than I would like to be.

I am sure that people pose a far greater threat to the natural environment than cattle do, but I do not think many visitors to the bushlands would be approving of your analogy of National Parks visitors and cattle.

I still hold that there has always been a huge National Park and it will not need a large unproductive beaurocracy to administer it to the exclusion of other interests at least until there are vastly more people to produce the need and in turn share the cost.

It is the belief of my Association that the greatest threat to the environment is in the precincts of roadways and that there has long been sufficient administrative machinery to manage these areas , given adequate direction.

Naturally we accept what has transpired but maintain that it is legislation based on ill advice.

Your broad comments about the relativity of grazed and ungrazed land shows considerable depth of misunderstanding, but that is understandable considering the paucity of completed research available. I feel that all I might relate at this distance will do little to convince you that I can make some valid points but would like to be able to show you available evidence and let your eyes be the judge. I am sure there are a great many things about which, in reality, we are fully agreed.

../2

The forthcoming "Get-together" of the M.D.C.A.V. will be held at Pretty Valley in the Bogong High Plains on the 6th February and I hope you are able to again come and I will be able to meet you.

I must apologise for the bad behaviour you were subjected to last year, it is always a worry to us that some people might behave badly and give offence and I can assure you efforts will be made to remind people of their responsibilities to others.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES A. COMMINS
President.