James A. Commins PRESIDENT COTAL A. Aston CENTRAL SECREARY

June 14, 1983.

Post Office Ensay. Vic. 3895. (051) 57 3236

Mr. R. Mackenzie Minister for Lands and Forests Parliament House MELBOURNE, VIC. 3002.

Dear Sir,

We wish to express our grave concern and seek immediate clarification of a statement made by you on Radio 3GI on Tuesday, June 14, 1983.

In an interview you were interpreted to say that Mountain Cattlemen were aware of Government Policy and that they accept the fact that grazing will be phased out of alpine areas. The statement went on to say that Cattlemen were realists and it was a matter of negotiating a time frame for a phasing out period.

If this statement is correct, the Cattlemen have grave misgivings that the Government is pre-empting and influencing independent findings of the Land Conservation Council. As you are aware, the Land Conservation Council Preliminary Report recommend that little change be made to grazing rights in the alpine area. This is despite the fact some grazing areas will be inside a recommended expansion of the National Park Network.

We wish to register our strong conviction that the Government should not seek to influence the Final Recommendations of the Land Conservation Council or to pre-empt its findings with preconceived Government Policy. We believe the radio statement did both of these.

We wish to state that the Mountain Cattlemen do not accept that grazing will be phased out of alpine areas and intend to defend their position.

We would be pleased to receive your comments on the above points at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

rer:

JAMES A. COMMINS
PRESIDENT.