

"Araluen",  
Essay, Vic. 3895.  
051 57 3232.

November 5th, 1981.

Mr. S. Dimmick  
Chairman  
Land Conservation Council  
464 St. Kilda Road  
MELBOURNE, VIC. 3000.

Dear Sir,

The Mountain District Cattlemen's Association of Victoria held their Annual Meeting recently in Melbourne.

At this meeting there was a unanimous feeling that our Association has been gravely misled on the real reasons that some grazing areas were recommended to the Government to be phased out of grazing by 1988 or thereabouts.

The reason that our members are unhappy is because we have been of the impression that some grazing areas were allocated to be free of cattle in a compromise situation to satisfy various sections of the community.

We were further under the impression that damage or otherwise to Alpine grazing areas was not a deciding factor in having areas phased out, and in fact, those cattlemen affected were just plain unlucky.

However, subsequent inquiries by some parliamentarians have revealed that alleged damage was in fact a major factor in deciding what areas were to be phased out.

This is inconsistent to what we have been told over the years, and we find it hard to accept because some of the phased out areas aren't as exposed or prone to damage as some areas that have escaped the phasing out recommendations.

In the light of this and in the view of our good relationship with your Council over many years we are asking you for written clarification of this matter.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES A. COMMINS  
President.

c.c. G. Stoney  
L. McCready