

# *The Mountain District Cattlemen's Association of Victoria*

Dear Supporters,

Please accept our sincere thanks to the large number of you who responded to our appeal to submit supporting petitions to the Land Conservation Council.

The response was so overwhelming, that as much as we wanted to, we have not been able to thank you personally.

More than 70 per cent of the submissions received by the LCC were opposed to its recommendations, but despite such enormous opposition it went ahead and presented them to the State Government.

A decision on these recommendations will be made soon, probably during the spring session of Parliament. (Legislation is being prepared now).

Recently, a number of senior State Ministers visited the mountains on fact finding tours, and as a result, are now aware that much of the information from the LCC and various conservation groups is open to serious question.

The issue before us is not just grazing, not just logging or mining or private unrestricted recreation in the Alps.

**THE CENTRAL ISSUE IS THE PROPOSED MASSIVE INCREASES TO THE NATIONAL PARK NETWORK AND FAR REACHING IMPLICATIONS SUCH EXTENSIONS WILL HAVE ON THE VICTORIAN COMMUNITY.**

We believe the present areas outside the existing national parks should be left as they are to co-exist with the existing Parks and where grazing, timber management and other commercial activities would continue, along with private recreational pursuits.

Ample departmental machinery already exists to monitor their activities and people would not be subjected to the severe national park restrictions.

We believe that people have a basic right to go sight-seeing, fishing or camping without being subjected to cumbersome and unnecessary restrictions that go hand in hand with national parks, as they are presently structured.

Therefore, everyone who is concerned about individual freedom and environmental well-being, should write to the appropriate Minister or the Premier, Parliament House Melbourne, expressing reservations about the LCC recommendations, **and asking pertinent questions.**

**Please note — questions of politicians require answers and therefore, make them think about the issue.**

Assurances should be sought that mountain cattlemen will not be phased out and that community enjoyment will not be affected. Also the cost of a larger national park system in economic and social terms can be seriously questioned.

The urgency for your questions to be asked at Government level **NOW** cannot be overemphasised.

A copy of your letter to your local members would assist them to keep informed of the issues and your feelings. Any effort you make to assist mountain cattlemen in their campaign will lead to a safer and healthier environment where conservation, production and recreation will continue harmoniously.

Your contribution will be very much appreciated and future generations will have good cause to thank you.

Please write now.

Yours sincerely

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