

## GIPPSLAND & NORTHERN COMPANY LIMITED

(INCORPORATED IN N.S.W.)

A wholly owned subsidiary of Amalgamated Co-operative Marketers (Australia) Ltd.

Acmal House: 566 St Kilda Road, Melbourne. Telephone: (03) 520 0911.—P.O. Box 4513 Melbourne Australia 3001 Telex: AA31082 Telegraphic Address: 'GIPPSNORTH' MELBOURNE 'LYSTOCK' MELBOURNE.

Licensed Estate Agent: JOHN FRANK ROURKE

KRC: ja

11th July, 1983.

Mr. Jim Commins, President, Mountain Cattlemens' Association of Victoria,

Dear Mr. Commins,

Thank you for your letter of 30th June, 1983, requesting that a letter be written to the Land Conservation Council, and now enclose copy of letter forwarded to that body, copies of which have been forwarded to Mr. Rod MacKenzie and Mr. Evan Walker.

Yours baithbully, GIPPSLAND & NORTHERN COMPANY LIMITED.

K.R. COCHRANE,

Encl:





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11th July, 1983.

The Secretary,
Land Conservation Council,
464 St. Kilda Road,
MELBOURNE.
3004.

Dear Sir,

I take this opportunity of making a few points with regard to the pressure being placed on the Government to ban the grazing of cattle in the Victorian high country.

The practice of summer grazing of cattle in mountain bush country, and also in some lower country, has been operating for at least a century and a half, and does not appear to have had any detrimental effect on the environment in these areas.

At present cattle grazing is carried out under strict Government control as well as self imposed and self administered control by the graziers, who as experienced conservationists, are aware that indiscriminate grazing and damage to the bush would in the long term affect the grazing value and general environment in the area.

My long experience in the industry leads me to believe that in most cases, only horses and dogs are used by graziers to deploy and muster cattle, whilst wheeled vehicles are used sparingly, if at all in these operations. These animals, by their nature, do not damage the bushland.

The areas used are jealously managed by the graziers, who spend many hours tending the bushland, no doubt sometimes with the aid of controlled fire, to ensure that natural herbage and timber continue to thrive.

Recent severe bushfires in the eastern areas of the State proved that the bush areas cared for by neighbouring farmers and managed during spring months, came through the fires almost undamaged, whilst the bush protected by Government instrumentalities was severly burnt out. This lack of damage was also noticeable in bush areas which had been "accidentally" lightly burned during winter and spring.

Yours baithbully,

HEAD AUCTIONEER - GIPPSLAND & NORTHERN CO. LTD.

and