

ADDRESS TO THE TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES CONFERENCE AT  
NAGAMBIE, SEPTEMBER 8TH, 1990.

IN THE PAST 15 YEARS, PUBLIC LAND IN VICTORIA HAS UNDERGONE A DRAMATIC CHANGE IN USE.

THIS DRAMATIC CHANGE HAS BEEN FROM COMMERCIAL TO RECREATIONAL.

RECREATION IN ALL ITS FORMS HAS PLACED INCREDIBLE PRESSURE ON PUBLIC LAND, AND OF COURSE IN TURN, PRESSURE HAS BEEN PUT ON THE TRADITIONAL USES OF PUBLIC LAND.

THIS PRESSURE, INITIATED BY A SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY, HAS INTRODUCED QUITE SERIOUS CONFLICT BETWEEN USER GROUPS.

AS YOU KNOW, MY MAIN INTEREST IS OF COURSE, THE ALPS.

ONE OF THE FIRST GROUPS TO FEEL THE COLD WINDS OF CHANGE WAS THE TIMBER INDUSTRY.

WITH THE ADVENT OF THE 4WD BOOM COUPLED WITH THE EXTENSIVE 2WD ROAD NETWORK (FINANCED BY THE LOGGERS), THE PUBLIC BEGAN TO INVADE THE ALPINE REGION IN EARNEST, AND DISCOVERED THE JOYS OF ALPINE RECREATION.

THEN, USING THE LOGGERS' ROADS, THE SELF-APPOINTED "WATCH-DOG" GROUPS TOOK THE MEDIA TO THE LOGGING SITES, THEY USED EMOTIVE TERMS, THEY TOLD ONLY ONE SIDE OF THE STORY, THEY MOULDED PUBLIC OPINION TO THE POINT WHERE LOGGING IS NOW FINISHED IN THE ALPS AND IN MUCH OF EAST GIPPSLAND.

THESE SELF-APPOINTED GROUPS ARE NOW TURNING THEIR

ATTENTION TO CENTRAL HIGHLANDS, AND WILL USE THE SAME TACTICS, TO STOP LOGGING THERE.

THEIR TACTICS ARE VERY CLEVER AND ARE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE. HOWEVER, IN MY OPINION, THESE PEOPLE ARE DOING AUSTRALIA A DIS-SERVICE.

THEY ARE NOT BALANCED IN THEIR DEMANDS AND ARE STOPPING THE USE OF A RENEWABLE RESOURCE BY ONLY TELLING HALF THE STORY.

THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN HAVE BEEN MORE FORTUNATE THAN THE LOGGERS.

PEOPLE ACTUALLY LIKE THEM.

THEY LIKE THEIR HORSES, / THEY LIKE THEIR CATTLE, / THEY LIKE THEIR HUTS, AND THEY APPRECIATE THEIR PRESENCE.

THE VICTORIAN TOURISM COMMISSION USE PICTURES OF CATTLE TO PROMOTE THE HIGH COUNTRY.

THEREFORE THE RELENTLESS CAMPAIGN WAGED BY THE CONSERVATION GROUPS TO GET RID OF THE MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN HAS BEEN HARDER FOR THEM TO MAKE THE MUD STICK.

THE CATTLEMEN ALSO TOOK THE FIGHT AND ARGUMENT RIGHT UP TO THE GREENIES, THEY FOUGHT THEM ON THEIR OWN GROUND IN THE POLITICAL ARENA, AND WITH DEMONSTRATIONS AND APPEARANCES THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

THIS HAS CREATED DEEP SEATED RESENTMENT OF THE CATTLEMEN  
IN CONSERVATION CIRCLES AND THESE PEOPLE HAVE PLEDGED  
NOT TO REST UNTIL EVERY COW HAS LEFT THE ALPS AND THE  
MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN, / TO QUOTE THE V.N.P.A. / "ACCEPT THEIR  
PLACE IN HISTORY".

THE CONSERVATION GROUPS' AGENDA WAS QUITE CLEAR WITH  
TIMBER AND CATTLE.

THIS WAS THE LINE THEY TOOK TO GET THEM OUT OF THE ALPS:

DEAR MINISTER,

DEAR POLITICIAN

IF YOU GET RID OF TIMBER AND CATTLE - AND IF YOU CREATE  
A WONDERFUL ALPINE NATIONAL PARK, THE ECONOMIC STANDARD  
OF TOWNS SUCH AS MANSFIELD AND HEYFIELD WILL ACTUALLY  
IMPROVE. ACTUALLY IMPROVE MIND YOU.

TOURISM IS THE ANSWER....NO WORRIES!

TOURISM IS HEALTHY, / TOURISM DOESNT CUT DOWN TREES, / TOURISM  
DOESNT EAT FLOWERS, / AND IS ENVIRONMENTLY FRIENDLY.

ALL THEY DO, MINISTER, IS LOOK AT THE VIEW!

WELL AFTER A BITTER STRUGGLE, THE ALPINE PARK WAS CREATED,  
THE LOGGING IS ALL BUT GONE, AND THE CATTLEMEN HAVE LOST  
MANY AREAS, BUT THEY ARE STILL THERE - FIGHTING.

SUCCESSIVE LABOR GOVERNMENT MINISTERS AND THE CONSERVATION GROUPS SAID MANY, MANY TIMES THAT TOURISM WILL SOLVE THE ECONOMIC VACUUM IN THE ALPINE TOWNS.

"JUST CREATE THE PARK AND THEY WILL COME IN DROVES" WAS THE CONVENTIONAL WISDOM OF THE POLITICIANS, / AND WAS GRADUALLY ACCEPTED ON ALL SIDES OF THE HOUSE.

I TELL YOU NOW / THE INK WAS HARDLY DRY ON THE ALPINE BILL WHEN THE GREENIES INTO IT.

ALL OF A SUDDEN THEY DISLIKED COMMERCIAL TOURISM.

HERE ARE SOME EXTRACTS OF THEIR PRESENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST VIABLE COMMERCIAL TOURISM.

THEY SAY - "WE BELIEVE NUMBERS ON COMMERCIAL TOURS SHOULD BE SLASHED".

THEY SAY - "WE BELIEVE COMMERCIAL TOURS CREATE GRAVE IMPACT ON THE FRAGILE ALPINE ENVIRONMENT".

THEY SAY - "WE BELIEVE HORSE TOURS DAMAGE THE ENVIRONMENT AND GUESTS SHOULD BE TAKEN IN GROUPS OF NO MORE THAN FIVE.  
NO MORE THAN FIVE."

THEY SAY "TOURS INTERFERE WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHERS IN THE ALPS". THATS PRETTY SELFISH.

THEY SAY - "TOUR OPERATORS WITH A HUT HAVE AN UNFAIR

COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE AND ARE AT THEIR HUTS WHEN OTHERS WISH TO USE THEM". NICE BIT OF PHILOSOPHY.

(THEY IGNORE THE FACT THAT THE OPERATOR BUILT AND MAINTAINS THE HUT AND LEAVES IT OPEN FOR ALL TO USE FOR MOST OF THE YEAR).

THEY SAY - "VEHICLES, HORSES AND TOURS SPOIL THE EXPERIENCE OF THE BUSHWALKER".

THEY SAY - "THE ALPINE WALKING TRACK SHOULD BE COMPLETELY FREE OF VEHICLES AND HORSES". THE ALPINE TRACK ROUTE FOLLOWS ORIGINAL BRIDLE TRACKS - SO MUCH FOR OUR HERITAGE.

THESE PEOPLE HAVE STARTED A CAMPAIGN AGAINST COMMERCIAL TOURS THAT IS SIMILAR TO THEIR TIMBER AND CATTLE PUSH.

IT IS AN ECONOMIC FACT OF LIFE THAT TO MAKE ANY MONEY FROM TOURISTS YOU HAVE TO HOLD THEM IN AN AREA FOR A WHILE (SO THEY RUN OUT OF SUPPLIES).

ALPINE TOWNS DONT MAKE ANY MONEY OUT OF A BUSHWALKER WHO BUYS SOME DRIED EGG IN HARDWARE STREET, MELBOURNE, AND COMES WALKING FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS. THAT PERSON ACTUALLY COSTS THE TOWN AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT MONEY. THE WALKER USES THE SHIRES INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES TO THE FULL.

THAT TYPE OF VISITOR MAY BUY FUEL AND A PIE - THATS ALL

6.

THATS NEGATIVE GEARING - TOURISM STYLE.

COMMERCIAL TOURS OF PUBLIC LAND ARE GREAT FOR ~~T~~TOWN IN WHICH THEY ARE BASED. THE OPERATOR LIVES THERE, AND VEHICLE REPAIRS, FUEL, FOOD, WAGES, RATES, PRINTING, ADVERTISEMENTS, ALL GO INTO THE TOWN ECONOMY.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT THE CONSERVATION GROUPS REALLY DISLIKE COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS ON PUBLIC LAND.

NOW THEY HAVE THE PARK / THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT HAVE CHANGED THEIR OFFICIAL TACK AND SUDDENLY VIABLE TOURISM IS AS BAD AS TIMBER AND CATTLE. / FUNNY THAT.

THEY HAVE BEEN VERY CLEVER.

IT IS NOT CONSERVATION YOU KNOW, ITS PHILOSOPHY.

THESE PEOPLE HATE ANYONE MAKING MONEY ON PUBLIC LAND AND TO ACHIEVE THEIR WAY THEY USE "CONSERVATION" TO OBTAIN OTHER THINGS.

THE CONCERNING THING IS THAT THIS TREND AND ATTITUDE TAKEN BY THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT IS BEING REFLECTED IN THE THINKING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT PLANNERS, AND UNLESS IT IS REVERSED, COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS ON PUBLIC LAND, INCLUDING TOURISM, WILL BE TOTALLY

FRUSTRATED AT EVERY TURN UNTIL THEY ARE FORCED TO CLOSE DOWN.

THERE IS AN ADVISORY BODY SET UP BY THE VICTORIAN PARLIAMENT CALLED THE ALPINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

AT THE TIME OF THE PASSING OF THE ALPINE PARK LEGISLATION, AND WITH THE AGREEMENT OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES, THIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS ENLARGED AND MADE MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GROUPS WHICH HAVE RECREATIONAL, COMMERCIAL, AESTHETIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS IN THE ALPS.

ALMOST WITHOUT EXCEPTION, WHEN A DEBATE ON ANY ISSUE TOUCHES ON COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES, THE THEME AND QUESTION IS FLOATED FROM SOME MEMBERS REPRESENTING CONSERVATION GROUPS -

"WHY SHOULD ANYONE MAKE MONEY FROM PUBLIC LAND, OR HAVE ANY SPECIAL RIGHTS OR PRIVILEGES ON PUBLIC LAND?"

THIS ATTITUDE OF SOME SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY, WHO ARE VERY PERSUASIVE, AND WHO KNOW HOW TO MANIPULATE AND SOFTEN GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE, WILL DESTROY COMMERCIAL TOURISM UNLESS THE MINISTER ASSUMES A STRONG LINE OF SUPPORT FOR THE TOUR INDUSTRY.

WE FEAR THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN.

UNLESS TOUR OPERATORS HAVE SOME CONCESSIONS, THEY SIMPLY CANNOT RUN A PROFESSIONAL AND SAFE ADVENTURE TOUR ECONOMICALLY.

THE TOUR OPERATOR IS ONLY THE MEDIUM THROUGH WHICH 20 OR SO TAXPAYERS AND OVERSEAS VISITORS IN A GROUP, CAN VISIT SOME OF THE MORE REMOTE ALPINE AREAS. THE FACT THAT HE IS MAKING A LIVING IS THE THING THAT THESE PEOPLE HATE, AND THE THING THAT THEY HAVE VOWED TO ELIMINATE FROM PUBLIC LAND IN VICTORIA.

VICTORIA'S ATTITUDE TO COMMERCIAL TOURISM IS WAY OUT OF STEP WITH TRENDS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

LET ME TELL YOU A STORY WHICH COMPARES OUR FAMILY TOUR OPERATION WITH A SIMILAR OVERSEAS SITUATION.

IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA, WITHIN THE ROCKIES NATIONAL PARKS SYSTEM, THERE ARE MANY CABINS CUT OFF ALL THE WINTER BY SNOW.

PEOPLE OWN THESE CABINS AND LEASE THE LAND THEY STAND ON. SOME OF THEM CONDUCT TOURS.

GUESTS FLY IN BY HELICOPTER TO SPEND A WEEK NORDIC SKIING WITH A GUIDE.



THERE ARE NO SHOWERS, / WATER IS HEATED OVER THE FIRE FOR A WASH, AND THE ONLY WAY TO GET CLEAN IS A ROUGH SAUNA OUT THE BACK IN A SHED.

THEIR MARKET IS, IN PART, OLDER PEOPLE WHO NO LONGER HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO GO OUT AND CAMP FOR A WEEK IN THE BACK COUNTRY, OVERSEAS VISITORS, AND PEOPLE WISHING TO LEARN HOW TO DO IT ON THEIR OWN LATER.

NOW / LET ME DESCRIBE OUR WINTER OPERATION.

WE OWN A HUT WITH A 9 YEAR LEASE ON THE HUT AND LAND WITHIN THE ALPINE NATIONAL PARK.

WE ~~HAVE~~ RUN PROFESSIONALLY GUIDED / BACK COUNTRY NORDIC SKI TRIPS / WHICH HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED BY TWO ADVENTURE PUBLICATIONS / AS AMONG THE TOP 10 OF 300 ADVENTURE TRIPS IN AUSTRALIA.

IT IS A TOTALLY UNIQUE OPERATION AND WE ARE VERY PROUD OF WHAT WE OFFER OUR GUESTS.

WE TAKE PEOPLE IN BY 4WD (IT ~~TAKES~~ 2 HOURS FROM MANSFIELD) AND HAVE LONG STANDING PERMISSION TO USE 1.5KM OF SEASONALLY CLOSED ROAD UP TO THE HUT.

WE DONT HAVE A SHOWER, / SO PEOPLE GET CLEAN WITH A BASIN

WASH AFTER A SAUNA IN A ROUGHT SHED OUT THE BACK

IS THIS STARTING TO SOUND FAMILIAR?

WE PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN A REFUGE SECTION OF OUR HUT WHICH SLEEPS 9 INDEPENDENT TRAVELLERS AND HAS A POT BELLY STOVE.

WE HAVE AN EXISTING PRIOR RIGHT OVER OUR KITCHEN AND BUNKROOM WHICH WE NEED IF WE ARE TO RUN A PROFESSIONAL TRIP.

HOWEVER WE ALWAYS OFFER THE HOSPITALITY OF OUR FIRE, A HOT DRINK AND OTHER HELP IF NEEDED BY PASSERS-BY.

THE HUT IS ALWAYS LEFT OPEN AND NOT USED BY US FOR 300 DAYS A YEAR, WHICH MEANS IT IS A GREAT ASSET FOR THE COMMUNITY TO ENJOY.

OUR MARKET IS OLDER PEOPLE, PEOPLE WHO HAVENT THE CONFIDENCE TO DO IT THEMSELVES, MANY ADELAIDE AND PERTH PEOPLE, AND OVERSEAS VISITORS.

THIS IS THE RUB -

THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT IS TRYING EVERY TRICK IN THE BOOK TO CLOSE US DOWN AND THE CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENT ALPINE PLANNING TEAM, (WHO ARE JUST ABOUT TO RELEASE FINAL MANAGEMENT PLANS) ARE TAKING NOTICE.

THIS IS WHAT THE CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENT PLANNING TEAM ARE PROPOSING FOR OUR OPERATION:

1. PULL OUT THE SAUNA.

2. PULL DOWN OUR WOOD SHED. (WE CANT OPERATE IN THE WINTER WITHOUT WOOD).
3. CANCEL OUR LICENCE. *ON THE HUT.*
4. CANCEL OUR PRIOR RIGHT TO THE KITCHEN AND CONSTRUCT A DOOR BETWEEN THE REFUGE AND KITCHEN.
5. BAR US FROM USING THE REFUGE FOR ANY COMMERCIAL PURPOSE.
6. OPEN THE ROAD TO THE HUT FOR THE PUBLIC, OR IF THIS PROVES TOO DANGEROUS, (WHICH IT IS), CANCEL OUR PERMISSION TO GO ON THE CLOSED ROAD. (IF EVERYONE CANT USE IT, NO ONE CAN USE IT) *IS THE RATIONAGE.*
7. PULL DOWN A SAFTY TEPI TENT WE HAVE IN THE WINTER 4KM FROM OUR HUT.
8. REDUCE OUR NORDIC SKI NUMBERS TO 15, REDUCE OUR BUSH WALKING NUMBERS TO 15, REDUCE OUR HORSE NUMBERS TO 15 HORSES TOTAL. (EFFECTIVELY 9 GUESTS) PLUS STAFF PLUS SPARE HORSES.

TOURS NEED AN AVERAGE OF 20 - 25 TO BE ECONOMICALLY VIABLE IN OUR AREA.

JUST LISTEN TO THIS.

THE PLANNERS HAVE NOT <sup>PLACED</sup> ~~USED~~ ANY RESTRICTION ON PRIVATE GROUPS.

THIS MEANS THAT IF SCHOOLS WISH TO USE A COMERCIAL OPERATOR THEY CAN ONLY SEND 15 STUDENTS, OR 9 ON A HORSE

RIDE.

IF THEY GO ALONE THEY CAN TAKE ANY NUMBER THEY LIKE.

SCHOOLS NOW USE UNITS OF ABOUT 25 (MINI BUS LOAD).

THE EFFECT OF THE PLANS WILL BE THAT FOR ECONOMIC REASONS  
SCHOOLS WILL CEASE TO USE COMMERCIAL OPERATORS, AND WILL  
ATTEMPT TO VISIT THE ALPS WITH JUST TEACHING STAFF.

THE DANGER TO THE STUDENTS WILL INCREASE AND THE STUDENTS  
WILL NOT GET THE VALUE THEY GET NOW FROM OPERATORS WHO  
KNOW THE AREA WELL, AND CAN PASS THE HISTORY ON.

THE STORY I JUST TOLD YOU CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES JUST HOW  
BIASED CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENT IS TOWARDS COMMERCIAL  
TOUR OPERATORS. THEY ARE LISTENING TO ECONOMICALLY  
ILLITERATE GROUPS WHO ONLY CARE ABOUT THEIR OWN AGENDAS.

I HAVE USED OUR EXAMPLE AND PROBLEMS BECAUSE I KNOW THE  
POSITION BEST.

THERE ARE ABOUT 25 OPERATORS IN THE ALPINE AREA.

WITHOUT EXCEPTION, THEY ALL BELIEVE THEIR FUTURE AS VIABLE  
TOUR OPERATORS IS THREATENED BY THE CURRENT CONSERVATION  
& ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS.

THIS SITUATION IS TOTALLY RIDICULOUS, AND IF IT WASNT SO SERIOUS, WOULD BE LAUGHABLE.

I EMPHASISE AGAIN, THE DEBATE IS MAINLY NOT ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE IT IS MAKING MONEY ON PUBLIC LAND.

I USED THE EXAMPLE OF THE HUTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA PRIVATE OPERATORS ALL OVER THE WORLD OWN PRIVATE FACILITIES WHICH THEY LOCK IN NATIONAL PARKS.

IN OREGON A RAFTING COMPANY HAS 2 LOCKED HUTS ON A WILD RIVER WHICH HAVE NO OTHER ACCESS, AND ARE RIGHT IN THE HEART OF A NATIONAL PARK.

IN NEW ZEALAND, VARIOUS COMPANIES HAVE CONCESSIONS FOR LOCKED HUTS TO TAKE PEOPLE INTO THE REMOTE MOUNTAINS SAFELY.

IN TASMANIA A COMPANY RUNS BUSHWALKS TO A STRING OF LOCKED HUTS IN THE CRADLE MOUNTAIN AREA. THESE HUTS ARE STOCKED WITH PROVISIONS AND THE GUESTS ONLY CARRY A LIGHT DAY PACK.

HERE THE OPERATORS DONT LOCK THEIR HUTS AND YET THEY ARE BEING HOUNDED OUT OF BUSINESS.

WHY IS VICTORIA SO OUT OF STEP WITH SENSIBLE TOUR DEVELOPMENT.

IT IS BECAUSE OF 3 REASONS.

1. THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT ARE ONLY TELLING HALF THE

STORY TO THE PUBLIC, THE ORGANIZATIONS ARE RUN BY PEOPLE WITH A VERY SOCIALISTIC OUTLOOK, AND THESE PEOPLE ARE USING "CONSERVATION" AND THE ENVIRONMENT TO ACHIEVE THEIR BELIEFS.

2. IN TURN THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT HAS INFLUENCED THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENT TO THE POINT THAT THE PLANNERS ARE BENDING OVER BACKWARDS NOT TO GIVE TOUR OPERATORS ANY SPECIAL CONCESSIONS, AND IN FACT TO SEVERELY RESTRICT THEIR OPERATIONS.

3. DEPARTMENTS SUCH AS CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENT ATTRACT PEOPLE WHO DONT LIKE, OR UNDERSTAND, PRIVATE BUSINESS, OR HOW A NATION'S ECONOMY WORKS, AND WHO ARE TOTALLY COMMITTED TO PRESERVING A PRISTINE PUBLIC LAND SITUATION.

THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN THERE 8 YEARS, AND UNDER THEM AN INCREDIBLE POWER BASE - CONSISTING OF THESE TYPE OF PEOPLE - HAS DEVELOPED IN THE BUREAUOCRACY.

THIS IS NOT A POLITICAL STATEMENT, OR PROMOTION FOR THE OPPOSITION. IT IS JUST A FACT OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED.

IN FACT I MUST SAY THAT THERE IS A GLIMMER OF CHANGE WITH STEVE CRABB AS MINISTER FOR CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENT.

STEVE IS ALSO MINISTER FOR TOURISM, AND DOES UNDERSTAND THE BASIC NEEDS OF TOUR OPERATORS, AND TO DATE HAS BEEN

VERY SUPPORTIVE

WHETHER OR NOT HE CAN EFFECT ANY HELP TO THE INDUSTRY WITH THE OPPOSITION HE HAS FROM MIDDLE MANAGEMENT OF CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENT REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

THE OTHER ORGANIZATION THAT HAS BEEN A GREAT HELP TO THE TOUR OPERATORS IS THE VICTORIAN TOURISM COMMISSION.

BECAUSE OF THE MANY PROBLEMS FACING THE INDUSTRY LAST YEAR, THE OPERATORS GOT TOGETHER AND FORMED THE VICTORIAN TOUR OPERATORS ASSOCIATION.

THE VICTORIAN TOURISM COMMISSION COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE HELP TO US, AND WE CANNOT THANK THEM ENOUGH.

THEY HAVE GIVEN US ADVICE, SECRETARIAL BACK UP TO GET STARTED AND, WHAT IS MORE APPRECIATED, THEY HAVE GIVEN US ENCOURAGEMENT TO GO ON AND BECOME A PROFESSIONAL INDUSTRY.

DESPITE THIS HELP, I MUST SAY I AM PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THOSE OPERATORS USING PUBLIC LAND.

UNLESS THE SITUATION CHANGES THEY WILL BE REGULATED OUT OF BUSINESS.

THEY ARE TOO SMALL A VOICE TO DO MUCH ABOUT IT, AND THEIR MARGINS ARE SO SLIM, THAT THEY CANNOT AFFORD TO FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS.

THE PEOPLE AGAINST THE OPERATORS SOUND SO PLAUSIBLE, AND BY TALKING ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT SO PASSIONATELY, MAKE THE PUBLIC ACTUALLY FEEL GUILTY IF THEY DONT SUPPORT THE GREEN POINT OF VIEW REGARDLESS IF THEIR ARGUMENTS LACK SUBSTANCE.

THE ANSWER AND ONLY HOPE, IS STRONG GOVERNMENT AND FULL SUPPORT FROM THE MINISTER.

WE HEAR A LOT ABOUT SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE RESOURCES.

IF EVER THERE WAS AN INDUSTRY THAT CAN ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES, IT IS THE COMMERCIAL TOUR BUSINESS.

THE QUESTION IS, WILL THE AUTHORITIES HERE IN VICTORIA, BE STRONG ENOUGH TO GIVE US A GO?

AT THIS STAGE I DONT THINK SO.

GRAEME STONEY

SEPTEMBER, 1990