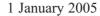
Victorian National Parks Association Level 3, 60 Leicester St Carlton, Vic. 3053



The Hon. John Thwaites MP Minister for Environment and Water Level 3, 1 Treasury Place East Melbourne Vic 3002

Dear Mr Thwaites.

We ask you to end licensed cattle grazing in the Alpine National Park, one of Victoria's most significant protected areas.

Alpine cattle grazing has been clearly identified, through 60 years of scientific research, as a cause of:

- threats to the survival of many alpine species,
- soil compaction and erosion
- deterioration of ancient peat beds and bog pools, and damage to streams and waterways
- widespread changes in vegetation structure.

Grazing in the park compromises the headwaters of many of the major rivers in Victoria, including the Murray, Mitta Mitta, Kiewa, Mitchell, Macalister, Tambo, Buchan and Snowy. Indeed cattle grazing in sensitive natural areas, particularly wetlands and waterways, is clearly an outdated, unsustainable farming practice.

Global warming now poses a significant and growing threat to natural systems in the alps, making effective management of natural values even more important.

Cultural heritage values associated with grazing traditions can be accommodated in less sensitive areas in the region.

It would be irresponsible to continue cattle grazing in the park, compromising both formation of a great three-State Australian Alps National Park and possible World Heritage listing for the region.

Yours sincerely,

Charlie Sherwin,

Director, Victorian National Parks Association, on behalf of

Australian Conservation

Foundation

National Parks Association of NSW

National Parks Association of ACT

Environment Victoria

Friends of the Earth

Humane Society International

National Parks Association of NSW

National Parks Association of Victorian of Victorian

Wickley (Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs)

















