



Victorian National Parks Association Inc.

Level 3, 60 Leicester
Street Carlton Vic 3053,
Tel: (03) 9347 5188
Fax: (03) 9347 5199
Email: vnpa@vnpa.org.au
Website: www.vnpa.org.au
ABN 34 217 717 593

MEDIA RELEASE

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Campbell Decision: World Heritage push for Australian Alps must not be undermined by cattle damage in Victorian Alps

The Victorian National Parks Association has called on Federal Environment Minister Senator Ian Campbell to protect the natural heritage of Victoria's Alpine National Park.

"Senator Campbell must not back 45 cattle businesses over the interests of nearly 5 million Victorians" says Charlie Sherwin, VNPA Director.

"If Senator Campbell wants to achieve something real for our alpine heritage he should nominate the Australian Alps for World Heritage listing - and the main thing stopping that is cattle damage in Victoria's Alpine National Park.

"After all, it's a park, not a paddock, and the Man from Snowy River lives on in licensed grazing of State forests outside the park as well as on private land in the region. The heritage lives on, but so should the environment.

"The Alpine National Park belongs to all Victorians and the Bracks Government have done the right thing in giving strong protection from cattle damage for this beautiful area.

"The scientific evidence of damage to water catchments, wildflower species and streams in the park is rock solid. Why should hundreds of thousands of park visitors have to put up with the cow pats, flies and fouling of crystal mountain waters caused by cattle?"

Federal Minister for Environment and Heritage Senator Ian Campbell today announced the inclusion of the Victorian Alpine National Park on the Australian National Heritage list under emergency listing provisions, triggering a 40 day assessment process by the Australian Heritage Council.

For comment:

Charlie Sherwin, Director 0418 357813

Phil Ingamells, Alpine Project Officer 0427 705133