

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

1 January 2005



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 Indeed cattle grazing in sensitive natural areas, particularly wetlands and waterways, is clearly an outdated, unsustainable farming practice.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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CS".



Charlie Sherwin,  
Director, Victorian National Parks Association, on behalf of



Australian Conservation  
Foundation  
Environment Victoria  
Friends of the Earth  
Humane Society International

National Parks Association of NSW  
National Parks Association of ACT  
The Wilderness Society  
Vicwalk (Federation of Victorian  
Walking Clubs)