

---

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## ***THE CARRUTHERS GROUP OF ALPINE ECOLOGISTS AND SCIENTISTS***

---

### **DOOR OPENS FOR HERITAGE LISTING OF ALPINE NATIONAL PARK**

The Carruthers Group – a group of eminent alpine ecologists and scientists – has applauded the decision not to renew grazing leases in the Victorian Alpine National Park.

The practice of Alpine grazing has been subject to criticism from the scientific community since the late 1950s. The Carruthers Group has been in existence for several decades, and was previously known as the “*Kosciuszko Committee of Interested Scientists.*”

“Due to environmental concerns – backed by the weight of scientific evidence - grazing was halted many years ago in Kosciuszko National Park in NSW and Namadji National Park in the ACT.” Roger Good, spokesperson for the group stated.

“This decision is long overdue, and we applaud the Victorian Government for making the right decision based on science, environmental impacts and the importance of our heritage.”

Mr Good pointed out that the decision opens the door to pursuing appropriate national and international natural heritage recognition and listing for the Australian Alps Parks, which to date has not been possible while grazing continued.

The Alps are now also able to be managed as one unit; an objective of the interstate co-operative management program, as detailed in the *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperative Management of the Alps Parks*, signed by State and Commonwealth Ministers for the Environment in 1986.

“It’s a victory for all Australians, and it means generations to come will be able to enjoy the Alpine National Park.

“Importantly, from a cultural heritage point of view, the man from Snowy River survives: in State Forests, and away from such areas of acute environmental importance. And the heritage remains in the huts and remembrances of alpine grazing which exist in the park.”

“The end of grazing is a significant step for the environment – the high mountain ecosystem and especially for catchment management, as the Alps are the headwaters of several major rivers of the Murray-Darling system – the most important river system in southeastern Australia.” Mr Good said.

.../2

### **MEDIA COMMENT:**

Dr Alec Costin - ph 02 44735203) or Roger Good - ph 02 62369048, mobile 0431356088

## **Background on the Carruthers Group:**

This iconic name for the group was chosen because Mt Carruthers in Kosciuszko National Park was the most severely eroded site as a result of domestic stock grazing in the Snowy Mountains.

## **Members of the Carruthers Group:**

<b>Dr Alec Costin</b>	Senior Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO (retired)
<b>Prof . Frank Fenner</b>	Past Director, John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University. (retired)
<b>Dane Wimbush</b>	Senior Research Officer, (Alpine Ecology) CSIRO –(retired)
<b>Roger Good</b>	Senior Project Manager, Mountain Catchments and Alpine Ecologist (NSW NPWS) – (retired). Ecological rehabilitation specialist
<b>Prof. Ralph Slatyer</b>	Former Director Research School of Biological Sciences, Australian National University
<b>Prof. Jamie Kirkpatrick</b>	Environmental Sciences (Alpine Ecologist), University of Tasmania
<b>Prof. Geoff Hope</b>	Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University
<b>Dr Geoff Mosley</b>	Environmental Consultant, . Past Director of Australian Conservation Foundation.
<b>Graeme Worboys</b>	Vice Chair (Mountains Biome Theme) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas.
<b>Dr Jennie Whinam</b>	Botanist, World Heritage Area, Tasmania and President International Mire Society
<b>Andy Spate</b>	Karst Systems and Soils Research Scientist (NSW NPWS) – (retired), Environmental Consultant – research and ecological rehabilitation
<b>Dr Catherine Pickering</b>	Senior Lecturer, (Ecologist) Environmental Sciences, Griffith University
<b>Dr John Harris</b>	Senior Lecturer, (Ecology), Canberra University (retired)
<b>Prof Ralf Buckley</b>	Director of International Centre for Ecotourism Research, Griffith University

## **MEDIA COMMENT:**

Dr Alec Costin - ph 02 44735203) or Roger Good - ph 02 62369048, mobile 0431356088