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NATIONAL PARKS AND ALPS ARE GRAZED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD - MCAV

The comment in Federal Parliament by Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Tony Burke that “National Parks are not farms” is ridiculous and belittles the true position according to the President of the MCAV Mark Coleman.

Mr Coleman from Licola explained that many countries including UK, USA and Europe conduct grazing in National Parks and alpine areas for management and cultural reasons.

Grazing in those countries is sometimes carried out at much higher altitudes than in Victoria he said.

“Until 2005 grazing was conducted in the Alpine National Park and played a vital part in the management of fuel loads” Mr Coleman explained.

“That long term practice ensured the culture and heritage of the cattlemen and our high country ecosystems were holistically managed and preserved and this is exactly what still occurs overseas” he said

Mr Coleman said he understood that some National Parks such as Terrick Terrick are still grazed for management in Victoria.

“The Alpine National Park has thousands of hard hooped deer and brumbies grazing all year. Why are the Greens ignoring those issues and only demanding the removal of 400 cattle which will only be there on a seasonal basis and which will provide valuable long term information on fuel loads?” Mr. Coleman questioned.

‘It is obvious that because the Federal government is kept in power by the Greens, the Federal Minister has to be seen to be doing something about this issue.

We understand his dilemma,, but by listening to the Greens, he is ruling out supporting options for better management and fuel reduction techniques in Victoria’ Mr Coleman concluded.

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