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MCAV WELCOMES GRAZING REFERRAL

The Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria (MCAV) welcomes the State Government's referral of the Alpine National Park scientific grazing trials to the Federal Minister for the Environment Tony Burke.

President of the MCAV Mark Coleman said today that this may provide an opportunity for the minister to re-evaluate his position to this emotive issue.

"It is up to Minister Burke to stop playing cheap politics, as he has done until now and consider the referral on its merits. There are requirements of the legislation that the Minister must now observe in a professional way, as he replies to the application."

"If the Minister refuses to accept the proposition for scientific grazing trials in the Alpine National Park, he is virtually saying there should never be further scientific work done in the Park."

"There is a heavy responsibility on politicians such as Mr Burke, not to pick and choose projects on political grounds, or to cut off opportunities to increase knowledge."

"The proposed trials are to assess the value of grazing to reduce fuel loads. Contrary to the conservation movement claims, there has been very little scientific work done on this subject and what has been done is only in one very small area of the Park" Mr Coleman said.

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