

MEDIA RELEASE April 6, 2011

MINISTER BURKE MAKING A FOOL OF HIMSELF OVER ALPINE GRAZING ISSUE

The Federal Minister for Environment Tony Burke's announcement today on ABC radio national that he was going to inspect the Alpine National Park to ensure cattle have been removed is foolish, expensive and bizarre.

This was stated today by Mr Mark Coleman, President of the Mountain Cattleman's Association of Victoria

"Tony Burke, a Sydneysider, will be hard pressed to accurately observe anything to do with the Victorian High Country. "Mr Coleman observed.

"The last time Mr Burke visited the Alpine National Park his 4wd convoy ripped up the Dargo High Plains before he stood beside a deer wallow and loftily pronounced he has seen the damage cattle do. On that occasion he took his brief from the Victorian National Parks Association and his claim of damage was not true."

"The VNPA is manipulating today's news cycle with false claims about scientists involved with the grazing trials. It is also sponsoring a so called public meeting, so it is to be expected Mr Burke will again do as the VNPA and the Greens party demands."

"Here we have a Federal Minister, ignoring many pressing and real environmental issues Australia wide , running around the Victorian High Country chasing a few elusive old cows who are well and truly on their way home because the grazing season is finished" Mr Coleman said.

"In the end the management and protection of National Parks in Victoria from fire is a State Government responsibility. While the Federal Government has some input in specific areas, it is obvious Mr Burke is on a political frolic of self-promotion. It will eventually become clear that in demanding the cattle be removed from the Park, Mr Burke has overstepped his legal powers and has made himself look foolish," Mr Coleman concluded.

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