MCAV Media Release

595 words + caption

PHOTOCAPTION:

UNITED: President of the Mountain Cattlemen’s Association, Bruce McCormack, said his organization had always supported the timber industry.

“We support responsible logging” – Cattlemen hit back at former members who want to see logging end

THE Mountain Cattlemen’s Association of Victoria (MCAV) has hit back at claims they want to see logging cease following a recent story in the media.

“Claims that the MCAV have joined forces with two environmental groups calling for VicForests to surrender their right to log out of areas near Dinner Plain are blatantly incorrect,” MCAV president, Bruce McCormack, said.

“We are aware that some members of a grazing family are being quoted as supporting this move, but would like to make it clear that those in question do not represent the views of the Mountain Cattlemen’s Association – they are not members and haven’t been for quite some time.”

The response comes after it was revealed the Gippsland Environment Group and Environment East Gippsland had joined forces with “local graziers” to halt planned coupes along the Little Dargo River, claiming some 200-year-old trees in the area would be lost.

However, VicForests have confirmed that old-growth assessments are completed at every coupe with identified species excluded from harvesting.

Furthermore, the coupes currently in question have not yet been scheduled for harvesting.

“It is understood that genuine old-growth forests are excluded from harvesting and the MCAV supports that policy,” Mr McCormack said.

“So this feels like little more than a beat up story, with romantic opening sentences that are designed to grab attention rather than relay true fact.

‘’Timber harvesting as conducted in Victoria is fully sustainable while supplying vital resources for the needs of Victorians.”

Already some involved with the MCAV, which has a large membership base spread across the country, have called for those involved to be expelled.

However, Mr McCormack said it was not relevant.

“These family members quoted are not part of the MCAV, and have not been for years,” he said.

“I am surprised by the move, given that these same two environmental groups are calling for grazing licenses to be voluntary rescinded and are supportive of other closures of public land – but I respect those involved as individuals, and they are allowed to have their own opinions – however, it is not the opinion of myself or the MCAV.

“Sustainable public land management has always been the cornerstone of the MCAV policy and this will not change, and this includes timber harvesting.”

The MCAV policy on timber harvesting, updated after the Government’s decision to phase out native timber logging in 2019, is available for viewing on the website at www.mcav.com.au.