

The Octopus

Before he was elected as Victorian Opposition Leader, for some years Ted Baillieu visited protest meetings about planning all over Victoria.

Ted regularly illustrated his speeches to volunteer community groups, with a word picture explaining how the Bracks Government controls community concerns with a technique he dubbed “The Octopus”.

“Generally the tentacles of the Octopus is the local Bracks Labor MP, Ministerial Advisor, or Government representative who has been appointed to local committees,” Ted explained.

“When an issue develops in a community, they will caress you, pretend to be sympathetic, write letters and encourage you to engage in ‘meaningful discussions’ with paid Government advisors or bureaucrats. Of course, during that time you are expected to NOT go public, write letters to the papers or rock the boat – so they silence you with the process.”

The tentacles will continue to envelop you until they have exhausted your energy, resources and time. You won’t get anywhere, because all the time, the head of the octopus is sucking the meat off your bones until it weakens your resolve to act.”

“The only thing to do is to cut off the tentacles by going public which destroys the head and the perception that the Government is helping you with your issue or concern. Far from prejudicing your position, if you do go public and make lots of noise, the Government will quickly pay attention to you. It works in completely the opposite way anyone would expect,” Ted said.

The Mountain Cattlemen can confirm that Ted is right. Last year, Cattlemen were kept in ‘meaningful discussions’ and dialogue with the Government for more than a year until the very day the announcement was made to remove them from the Alpine National Park.

The Cattlemen were kept occupied with the process, while unbeknownst to them, the same Government people were preparing legislation to shaft them, writing press releases, organising tame scientists comments and commissioning fraudulent photos.

When the Government was ready, they simply did the Cattlemen over.

**A MESSAGE TO ALL GROUPS, DON’T LET THE BRACKS’ GOVERNMENT
SUCK YOU IN LIKE THIS,
BEWARE OF THE OCTOPUS – IT IS ALIVE AND WELL IN VICTORIA!**