

# MEDIA RELEASE



## THE COUNTRY RETURNS IN ANGER TO RALLY AT PARLIAMENT

City Streets were choked today, the country had come to town to tell the Bracks Government that all is not well in the bush.

A mob of angry protestors on horses, on trucks, on tractors and on foot converged on Parliament House to rally about water and the loss of access to public land.

257 horses, 60 tractors, 40 trucks, approximately 1700 people and even 2 mules formed the rally. The Liberal and the National Parties addressed the rally and strongly supported the rally's message.

Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria (MCAV) President, Doug Treasure spoke about why the MCAV set up the Push for the Bush lobby group. It was set up to support and give a voice to all public land users in Victoria, and over 2000 of them were here today to speak!

Mr Treasure explained about the fate of the mountain cattlemen "the icon the Greens wanted was the mountain cattlemen. The cattlemen were seen by the Greens as the barrier holding back the tide to close down the bush."

Mr Treasure warned about the Bracks Government and the Greens "closing down our public land is the Greens long term objective; they wanted East Gippsland – Bracks gave it to them, and he will keep giving our land to the Greens – every election - if he wins."

Simon Ramsay of the VFF congratulated the people for their efforts attending during such difficult times of drought and water shortages.

Wayne Spinks of the Justice for the Broken Valley spoke about the devastation that will become Lake Mokoan.

Water is a huge issue in the country and irrigators are furious with the way they have been treated. Barry Croke of the Northern Victorian Irrigators Inc spelt out for the crowd how the irrigators are being crippled having to pay for water that is not delivered.

The rally was addressed by the Nationals and the Liberals, the Bracks Government were invited and as usual were conspicuously absent. It was mentioned the Government is always absent when you need them.

Both the Liberal Leader Ted Baillieu and National Party Leader Peter Ryan made strong commitments to The Justice for the Broken Valley for retaining Lake Mokoan, to the Northern Victorian Irrigators Inc to support their proposals and to the MCAV.

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