

Publisher: AAP NewsWire

Publication: AAP Australian General News (Mon 9 Oct 2006 6:44 PM)

Keywords: Alpine (3),Grazing (3),Taskforce (1),national (1),parks (1)

Edition: Both Cycles

Vic: Country Victorians plan day of action against Labor MP

MELBOURNE, Oct 9 AAP - Victorian Labor MP Ian Maxfield will have to dodge farm animals, trail bikes and prospecting dishes outside his electorate office next week.

Less than two months out from the election, a group calling itself Push For The Bush (PFTB) is targeting the Narracan MP, who chaired the Alpine Grazing Taskforce.

The state government issued a controversial ban on cattle grazing in the Alpine National park last year.

Today, PFTB circulated an invitation to a "farewell party" for Mr Maxfield at his Warragul office, south-east of Melbourne, to celebrate what it hopes is his last term in office.

Country Victorians are encouraged to bring symbols of their connection with the land, such as horses, dogs, four-wheel drives, trail bikes and prospecting dishes, to the office next Friday.

PFTB coordinator Bob Richardson said Mr Maxfield was a natural target for the group's campaign.

He said people were being forced to run farms as de facto national parks without compensation from the government.

"We think trees have become gods and we need a political campaign to address that," Mr Richardson said.

"People's ability to earn a living on the land is being curtailed by over-regulation."

Mr Richardson said reforms to the upper house had skewed decision-making towards the city.

"We are losing our bush culture," he said.

"The ability to roam the bush on a horse, four-wheel drive or a trail bike is being gradually whittled away and I think people will resist that once they are made more aware of it."

Mr Maxfield, who holds his seat with a margin of 6.9 per cent, said he would decide closer to the time whether or not he would work from his electorate office next Friday.

"The Bracks government has responded to the needs of country more than any other government in the history of Victoria," he said.

"There is no doubt cattle grazing was damaging the Alpine National Park."

AAP mj/dk/wjf/nf

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