

# GREENED OFF

## HOW GREENS POLICIES WILL SCREW COUNTRY VICTORIA

### **JUST WHO ARE THE VICTORIAN GREENS?**

The Greens have sold themselves as a reasonable party protecting the environment, but the reality is very different.

The Greens use the environment as a cover for many whacky and hidden policies which would damage Victorians' way of life; and of particular interest to us is their intention to cut off our access and enjoyment of public land.

The Greens plan to change our society's economic and social values. It wants; drug safe houses, decriminalisation of drugs, no new roads, no hunting or fishing and massive tax increases.

Victorian greens do not even have a leader and their policies are not costed and therefore they lack the accountability and credibility of other political parties.

The main thing the Greens want desperately is the balance of power in the Upper House at this State Election. It then will bargain with the Government of the day to put its policies in place.

**PLEASE DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN**

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[www.vic.greens.org.au/about-the-greens/policy](http://www.vic.greens.org.au/about-the-greens/policy)

# FIREWOOD – GREENS WILL LEAVE YOU COLD

The greens propose to ban all firewood collection in native forests. (Greens 2006 Biodiversity Policy 3.2.2) The Greens also propose huge extensions to national parks. This would also bring about a de-facto ban on firewood collection (Greens Biodiversity Policy 3.4)

Hundreds of thousands of country Victorians rely on collecting fallen timber from native forests to keep warm in winter. Shortages already exist in some areas due to past decisions of the Bracks government.

Most country towns are not connected to gas. Neither electricity nor bottled gas is economic for home heating. Most rural powerlines would not carry the extra load created by a wholesale shift to electrical heating. Isolated homes and farm houses will never be connected to reticulated gas. They must have access to firewood.

Plantations on private land cannot supply firewood for at least fourteen years after planting - even under the most optimistic scenarios. Even then, plantation firewood would be more expensive than under the current system where self collection is allowed under a permit system on payment of a fee.

If you use firewood or sell it, don't vote Green or for a party which gives its preferences to the Greens.

Tell us your story, contact

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# PRIVATE LAND – OR IS IT?

There is already a small mountain of Bracks' native vegetation legislation which requires landowners to pay rates but makes the trees on their land virtually the property of the state. Tree hugging has become compulsory.

These laws cost ratepayers dearly by requiring that councils employ extra planning and enforcement officers dealing with applications to fell single trees.

Recently a Victorian farmer who pushed over 28 wind damaged trees as a safety precaution was informed by a council officer that he would have to plant 1080 trees, put a covenant on the area where they were planted, pay a \$10,000 bond and a fine of \$536.

The Greens intend to further tighten laws regarding private land use. Their ominous Biodiversity policy statement talks of "mandating sympathetic treatment on land bordering national parks." It sounds dangerously like allowing parks to grow like a green cancer.

Would it mean that if your land bordered a park you would be prevented from gathering firewood? Could you cut trees for posts? Would you be allowed to cull kangaroos or wild dogs? Would you be a tenant on your own land, paying the costs of managing it as a wilderness area?

Don't vote Green of for any party which gives the Greens its preferences.

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# ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

Greens policies on animals will increase the web of expensive regulation which already entangles rural communities. Their policies will spell the end of farming as we know it.

Merely ending recreational hunting (Greens 2006 Animals Policy 3.4.9) will place an extra burden on farmers who use recreational hunters to control excessive numbers of animals such as Eastern Grey kangaroos and deer. It would end mutually beneficial arrangements some farmers have with (often city based) recreational hunters to control wildlife which damage fences and compete with their stock for grass.

Banning commercial killing of wildlife (Greens 2006 Animals Policy 3.4.4) would further add to the burdens on rural landholders. Instead of culled animals being utilized for meat and skins (and thus providing income) they would be left to rot. The cost of control measures would rise. It's a stupid policy obviously intended to make life on the land as difficult and expensive as possible.

Road users will also feel the impact (pun intended) of Green policies as they collide with increasing numbers of Kangaroos.

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# TREES YES - WOOD NO

Greens policies would completely close down the native forest timber industry. The Greens are demanding a complete transition from native forests to plantations within an impossible 2009 deadline.

It is obvious that their forests policies were literally dreamed up by someone with no practical knowledge of how to grow trees, how to harvest them or how to market the wood.

Supplying Victoria's sawn timber needs from plantations within that time frame is impossible.

Timber communities such as Orbost would be destroyed. There is almost no land within the region available for plantations. Orbost is surrounded by vast state forests and parks.

Also the plantations which the Greens advocate as a replacement for the native forest industry could not produce wood at a reasonable cost under Greens regulations. They propose that plantations should be "mixed species" (Greens Forests policies). This is analogous to a farmer being required by law to plant oats, barley and wheat mixed together then sort them out after harvest.

The ultimate madness is the Greens demand that plantations fulfill a range of additional environmental requirements which begin to treat them as native forests. This includes placing some existing plantations in national parks (Greens 2006 Biodiversity New Reserves Policy) These policies are wildly impractical. Plantations should be treated as just another crop.

Don't vote Greens and don't vote for any party which gives the Greens its preferences.

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# ACCESS DENIED – SELL YOUR 4WDRIIVE

For many years, millions of Australians have enjoyed the bush experience. On foot, 4wd, horseback, trailbike, alone, with mates or with the kids they have roamed the mighty bush.

Sadly the opportunities for this magic experience are diminishing every year under green influenced governments and bureaucracies.

Conservationists laid out their plans to exclude almost every activity except walking from national parks as long ago as 1972. In "The Alps at the Crossroads"<sup>1</sup> by Dick Johnson they made it clear that they wanted national parks for walkers only. They did not want to "suffer in the noise, dust and fumes of vehicles."

They did achieve their 1972 objective of an Alpine National Park but the conservation movement didn't stop there. They just kept on campaigning for more parks and now 16% of Victoria is locked up in national parks.

The conservation movement's political party, (the Greens) is advocating election policies which include converting virtually all remaining state forest into national park. They will never be satisfied!

The most recent examples of further restrictions on access are in the new Otways National Park and the Bunyip State Park. Trail bike riders and 4wd drivers recently lost access to 280 kilometers of trails in the Bunyip.

That's why Peter Ellard Vice President of the Australian Motorcycle Trail Riders Association has said.

"The biggest issue facing legal motorcycle trail riding on public land will be if the Greens gain the balance of power in the Upper House at the November 25 State Election.

For legal off-road motorcycle trail riding and four wheel driving to continue on public land in Victoria then the Greens must be denied holding the balance of power in the Upper House at the November 25 State elections."

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<sup>1</sup> Published by the Victorian National Parks Association