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Alpine Marsh Marigold

Dear Phil

The very pretty, very tough Alpine Marsh Marigold survives cool burning, howling gales, blasting sun, intense grazing, the trampling of cattle and horses with steel shoes in Victoria's high country. It even flowers under melting snow but it cannot survive Alpine Park management. This iconic alpine flower along with ancient single trunk snow gums are a number of park effected plants threatened under the type of management promoted by environmental groups like the VNPA.



In a VNPA newsletter of October 2003 as Alpine Campaigner you stated: "The very pretty, very tough Alpine Marsh Marigold survives howling gales and blasting sun on Victoria's high country. It even flowers under melting snow but it cannot survive the trampling of hard hooves. This iconic alpine flower is one of a number of cattle effected plants listed as threatened under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act."

The Alpine Marsh Marigold survives very well (we have photos) there are hundreds and hundreds of flowers on Kevin Higgins Bennison Plains property with heavy grazing and cool burning. Few would dispute that it is a threatened species in the matt of snow grass too thick for it to penetrate through in the Alpine National Park. On country not grazed since 1998 I found a handful of flowers and country not grazed for decades could only find two flowers. I spent a whole day at the beginning of flowering failing to even find one flower on the country not grazed for decades.

I have the following questions:

(1) Could you please advise how you arrived at the conclusion that the alpine Marsh Marigold "cannot survive the trampling of hard hooves." and is threatened by grazing?

(2) Could you advise an area where I could take media to in the many marsh areas in the Alpine National Park around Bennison with a display of hundreds of flowers similar to the Higgins property?

(3) During Easter 2001, over 600 people signed a letter to the Premier and independents with a sentence stating: "Many from the Licola community and visitors to the area, expect to be misled, frustrated and lied to, when dealing with Parks Victoria." Do you support this the approach to promote environmental issues?

(4) What is the VNPA going to do to try and save this plant that appears to be seriously threatened not by grazing but the build up of a thick matt of snow grass in the Alpine National Park from the lack of cool burning and grazing?

Could I suggest Phil that more appropriate wording of material to try and save this plant should read like my introductory paragraph.

Yours sincerely

L.Ralph Barraclough