

Monday, 9 October 2006

New scare on marine parks

Country Alliance candidate Miles Hodge today called on the Government to state its intentions on proposed new marine parks. His call follows the release of a pre-election newsletter from State Member for Bellarine, Lisa Neville, on 19 September which floated the probability of the Government creating more marine parks.

“I would like to know if the Government and indeed other party intends to declare to the electorate whether it intends to lock up more coastline as well as expanding the Otways National Park,” he said.

“The idea of locking people out of areas owned and maintained by the public on the grounds of some quasi science, as has been demonstrated in some of the original Marine Parks, is not good management. What is needed is the promotion of Multi-use Parks that are well managed, not just locked up and left. “

“The only difference I can see between the marine parks and land based parks is the ability of one of them to burn, which they do on a regular basis. Land management seems to be based on a policy of exclusion and prosecution.”

Mr Hodge said he would not support the creation of any more parks of any kind that cannot be supported by science and be fully funded. He described it as stupid to have a policy that allows the clearing of trees and fallen limbs in town areas following storm damage yet forbids the clearing and collection of deadfall timber from roadsides for domestic use on the grounds of maintaining biodiversity in rural areas.” This is just simple common sense fire prevention” he concluded.

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