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Liberal MP questioned over Yarra Ranges comments

The Country Alliance party has urged a Liberal MP to back claims made in parliament with research.

The call comes after Eastern Victoria Region Upper House MP, Edward O'Donohue told parliament that the Yarra Ranges National Park was a 'haven' for illegal deer shooters hunting with spotlights and dogs. He told parliament that locals live in fear, with bullets flying past their homes in an air of "lawlessness".

Outdoor recreation spokesperson, Andrew Jones, said the comments, which appeared to be based on one constituent's claim, needed to be clarified.

"The problem with his comments is that they paint a picture of the park being full of people breaking the law when that is not the case," he said.

"While there could always be some illegal activity, Mr O'Donohue's comments exaggerate the situation and tarnish the reputation of shooters in the area."

Mr O'Donohue told parliament that local police lack motorbikes and four-wheel drive vehicles – a fact Mr Jones disputes

"All 4 police stations in the Upper Yarra area have 4 wheel drive vehicles and the trail bike squad has been very active here in recent weeks" he said.

"The true extent of any illegal activity needs to be kept in perspective. It would be preferable for Mr O'Donohue to bear that in mind when talking about those who visit the Yarra Ranges area for recreational activities – who are mostly mums and dads with their kids."

Contact: Andrew Jones, Outdoor recreational spokesperson

Website: www.countryalliance.org

Admin: admin@countryalliance.org / ph 0425 746 066