

## **Country Alliance Calls for Compliance with World Conservation Union Recommendations.**

Country Alliance today called for the Federal and State Governments to adopt all six of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Protected Area categories.

Spokesman Russell Bate asked why the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council had stopped short of adopting all six of the IUCN classifications and had instead opted only for the first four.

Mr. Bate pointed out that in the 1998 the IUCN guideline titled "National System Planning for Protected Areas" ratified the six 1994 IUCN categories of protected areas:

- Strict Protection (Strict Nature Reserve, Wilderness Area),
- Ecosystem conservation and recreation (National Park),
- Conservation of natural features (Natural Monument),
- Conservation through active management (Habitat/Species Management Area),
- Landscape/seascape conservation and recreation (Protected Landscape/Seascape)
- Sustainable use of natural ecosystems (Managed Resource Protected Area).

"However in 1997 A Report by the Joint ANZECC / MCFFA National Forest Policy Implementation Sub-committee only referenced the first four of these classifications, ignoring the last two, both of which embodied the IUCN principle of Sustainable Use. Significantly they are the only two classifications that allow for "the maintenance of cultural and traditional attributes" he said.

"The failure to adopt these two classifications has resulted in considerable friction between governments (both State and Federal) and ordinary Australians who want to access and enjoy public land."

"Bound by the limitations imposed by the first four classifications, state and federal conservation bodies have refused a variety of potential uses of public land, especially in parks and reserves. This has led to increasing opposition to the declaration of new parks and reserves by the primary sector and by a range of recreational users."

"Recent opposition to the Victorian Otway and Box Ironbark parks and the public outcry against the VEAC proposals for the River Red Gum Forests, may well have been avoided with the adoption and use of either of these best practice protected area guidelines" he concluded.

.For media comment contact Russell Bate

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