

Friday, 16 May 2008

Call to bring Parks Victoria under control

The Country Alliance party has called on Environment Minister, Gavin Jennings, to intervene in the consultation process used by Parks Victoria over its draft recreation and tourism access plan for the Otways area.

The call follows the cancelling of a consultation meeting planned for next Tuesday, which would have allowed local businesses and individuals to air their concerns over plans to shut down access to local tracks and beaches.

Upper House candidate for the area, Miles Hodge, accused Parks Victoria of deliberately avoiding consultation that questioned its plans.

“It is clear that the local community has concerns it wants to air, but that Parks Victoria doesn’t want to listen,” he said.

“This is the second time Parks Victoria has cancelled a meeting and the final straw in the embarrassing way Parks Victoria has gone about trying to push its own agenda on the local community.”

“We believe the time has come for Minister Jennings to take this matter over and act in the local community’s interests.”

Mr Hodge said his party supported significantly greater access to public land, including for hunting, fishing, camping, bushwalking and other uses.

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