

ACCESS TO PUBLIC LAND COULD BE OVER BY CHRISTMAS!

In Victoria we go to the polls very soon and we are faced with the real possibility that our rights to hunt will be traded away to appease the Greens and other minorities.

And keeping them out isn't that simple either...

The Victorian voting system makes it possible for people you would never support to get through on your third or fourth preference vote.

At the last election the Greens won three seats in the upper house of the Victorian Parliament - all around Metropolitan Melbourne. If they get a few more around the city this year the Greens will have the power to dictate to all Victorians in all parts of the State.

- they will succeed in banning all forms of hunting, including deer hunting.
- they will close our National Parks to all but a few bushwalkers and birdwatchers.
- they will close what's left of our timber industry.
- they will create more marine and river parks that will be closed to fishing.
- they will severely restrict our farmers' efforts to generate crops and livestock.

What you won't know...

In a few weeks when you go to your local polling station and take a "how-to-vote" card for your chosen party or candidate there are things you will not know...

One is which parties the party you vote for in the Upper House of Legislative Council is giving its second, third and fourth preferences to.

Because the result for the fifth and last position in each Upper House region is often very close, third, fourth and fifth preferences can matter.

The parties will tell you to put a number 1 beside their name 'above the line'.

Because voting 'below the line' and numbering every square is too hard, most of us vote 'above the line'.

The way in which parties allocate preferences often is the result of wheeling and dealing, and by voting above the line people unknowingly give preferences to a party to which they are opposed.

In the Lower House of Legislative Assembly we have to fill in every square.

Consequently the major parties have to tell us whom they want us to give our preferences, and we can ignore them.

The Major Parties

It is likely that Labor and the Liberal/National coalition will be preferencing Greens in some seats this election.

For example in the recent federal election the Liberal's preferenced the Greens in the federal seat of Melbourne. Without Liberal preferences, the Greens would not have won this seat.

If the Coalition does the same in the state election, the Greens could win four Lower House seats in Melbourne's inner suburbs.

The outcome for Country Victorians would be disastrous!

If you are voting for a MAJOR PARTY look carefully at the "how-to-vote" card in the Lower House. Whatever it says, please place the greens LAST on your ballot paper. For strength please give your second preference to the Country Alliance candidate in all seats and all ballot papers.

In the upper house, put a 1 beside Country Alliance.

Country Alliance

Country Alliance is the only party which is an advocate for Country Victoria and for users of public land that has GUARANTEED not to preference the Greens – the Greens will be last on all Country Alliance "how to vote" cards.

- CA policies have been developed with real common sense in mind.
- CA policies do not seek to take anything away from anyone. They seek to build opportunities, employment and enjoyment in regional and rural Victoria.
- CA understands that hunters, fishers, 4WDers and campers are part of the mainstream Victorian community – not a minority group to be traded away in a political deal.

Country Alliance is working tirelessly to maximise the anti-Green preference flow.

The result we hope will be Country Alliance representation in the Upper House where the Greens are likely to have the balance of power, regardless of who wins the election.

The Country Alliance Upper House Candidates

Northern Victoria Region: Steven Threlfall 0418 868 867

Western Victoria Region: Miles Hodge 0412 524 433.

Eastern Victoria Region: Andrew Jones 0427 557 093.

In addition as we go to print there are 23 lower house candidates standing across regional Victoria. Many of the candidates are well known to the shooting fraternity. A full list of candidates will be available on the CA website www.countryalliance.org on November 11.

Your help is urgently needed!

We need your help to man as many Country Alliance polling booths as possible, especially in major regional centres. A few hours of your time on polling day can make a big difference.

If you share our belief that this is a critical election, if you care about the sport and the ability of your children and grandchildren to enjoy the pursuits that are dear to them, Country Alliance can use your help.

To register

Contact the FGA National office (03) 5799 0960 or email fga@fga.net.au The campaign co-ordinator will then contact you to arrange where your help is required.

