



## Cows in our waterways lethal for the land

Cattle grazing along riparian land can have major impacts on our rivers and streams. These impacts can take many years to reverse and in some cases may permanently affect the ability of rivers and streams to function naturally.

The threats from cattle grazing along rivers and streams are immense and well documented. Grazing can cause:

- Erosion of river banks with increased sedimentation of rivers.
- The introduction and spread of exotic plants, inhibition of native vegetation, soil compaction, lack of regeneration of native vegetation, loss of the buffering effect of riparian vegetation.
- Reduced water quality impacts on the stream habitat of fish, vertebrates and plants.
- The addition of nutrients to rivers and water through dung and urine.

### In addition:

- Degraded riparian vegetation reduces the amount of habitat available for insect-eating birds.
- Stock effluent pollutes fresh water, destroys fish breeding cycles and encourages the proliferation of disease organisms and algae. This often leads to impaired water quality for downstream users.

### Ongoing destruction

Uncontrolled stock access to riparian zones continues to be the major pressure on riparian vegetation in Victoria. In 2004, only 14 per cent of river reaches assessed across the state were found to have riparian vegetation in good condition.

Protection and restoration of riparian vegetation has been promoted through a number of means. There are about 30,000km of Crown water frontages along rivers in Victoria, but to date the conservation intent of policy for these frontages has not translated into on-ground conservation outcomes.

The *Victoria 2008 State of the Environment* report found that:



Cattle grazing along Victoria's rivers has many damaging effects including introducing weeds, reducing water quality, eroding river banks and pumping nutrient-rich dung and urine into our waterways.



- Only 21 per cent of major rivers and tributaries in Victoria are in good or excellent condition.
- Almost half the river basins in Victoria have less than 10 per cent of major rivers and tributaries in good or excellent condition.
- Only 14 per cent of major rivers and tributaries have riparian vegetation in good condition. Uncontrolled stock access to riparian zones continues to be the major pressure on riparian vegetation statewide.

### Time for change

The first Victorian State of the Environment report recommended the following:

"The Victorian Government should consider progressively extending VEAC recommendations on phasing out uncontrolled grazing of domestic stock on Crown land water frontages to the rest of Victoria, beginning with the 2009 licence renewal process."

– IW3.2



**Yes!** I would like to join the VNPA to enjoy and protect Victoria's unique natural environment and wildlife.

### PERSONAL DETAILS

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Other \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Gender F M \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth / / \_\_\_\_\_  
Suburb/Town \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel (Business Hours) \_\_\_\_\_ Tel (After Hours) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  I do **not** wish to receive email bulletins and news from the VNPA.

### SELECT MEMBERSHIP

New Member  Renewing Member [Member no: \_\_\_\_\_ ]

I would like to become a VNPA member in the following category  YES  NO To save paper and administration costs and further contribute to protecting Victoria's natural heritage, please **AUTOMATICALLY RENEW** my VNPA membership each year (through my credit card or bank account as provided below).

Individuals  1 year \$55  
Concession (Pensioner/Student)  1 year \$35  
Household/Family  1 year \$75  
Corporate (Club/Society)  1 year \$85

### DONATION

I would like to make a **regular financial contribution** in addition to my membership *All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible.*  
 \$20 per month  \$50 per month  \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month  
Regular Giving donations are managed by credit card or direct debit only, with debit made on the 28<sup>th</sup> of each month. You will receive a tax receipt at the end of each financial year, and can stop or change your donations at any time.

**One-off Donation** - I am unable to make a regular giving contribution at this time, but would like to give a **one-off tax-deductible donation** of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

### PAYMENT METHOD

**Cheque/Money order** payable to 'Victorian National Parks Association' is enclosed.

**Credit card**  Visa  Mastercard Card no \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Cardholder name \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Direct Debit from my Account**  
Financial institution \_\_\_\_\_  
Bank/Branch (BSB#) \_\_\_\_\_ Account number \_\_\_\_\_  
Account holder(s) name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please post or fax with payment to Victorian National Parks Association, Level 3, 60 Leicester St, Carlton 3053 or Join online at [www.vnpa.org.au](http://www.vnpa.org.au) • F 03 9347 5199 • T 03 9347 5188