

benefit of the sport is considerable to our community as a whole.

We want our sport to be considerate of all of the community and to be safe. If you are aware of criminal activity we encourage your use of the Crime Stoppers 1800 133 000 number or online reporting at crimestoppersvic.com.au

If you have any suggestions that may help the ADA be more effective in contributing to the elimination of illegal or unethical behaviour, we welcome your assistance by contacting ug.sec@ausideer.asn.au

*Secretary, Australian Deer Association
(Upper Goulburn Branch)*

Roundabout

I HAVE been away for a couple of weeks and missed the community meeting regarding the Grant Street intersection. To me, the simple solution would be a roundabout. It doesn't have to be huge. Keep it low so trucks could just drive over it and highly visible so people could see it. Seems to be a logical, easy fix to what is becoming a complex issue.

The statement in *the Standard* dated March 28 that "a roundabout is not a possibility at the intersection as it's too small and installation would require the removal of buildings at the corner" just seems ludicrous. How big does a roundabout have to be?

In my opinion, to still keep Grant Street shopping area as the main road is just illogical. This is the cause of the problem in the first place. Everyone knows how to drive through a roundabout and it would still keep traffic flowing from all directions.

Would love to hear other people's opinions.

Julee Hosking, Alexandra

Forestry

DESPITE what Forests Minister Anne Ruston may claim the two year RFA extension (*Standard/Chronicle*, April 4) allows the ongoing catastrophe for the Rubicon State Forest to continue unchecked.

Critical breaches of RFA requirements have been ignored including failure to adopt sustainable harvest levels by Forest Management Area (FMA), failure to comply with the Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014, and failure to implement a system of forest reserves meeting the agreed criteria.

By maintaining accreditation of Victoria's forest management system despite these breaches the Commonwealth Government has breached its RFA obligations.

In 2010, with massive timber shortfalls looming due to the mega-fires of the 2000s, the state government changed the timber allocation order - the legal instrument allowing VicForests to log - so that instead of harvest levels being set by FMA and by various forest types, it was set statewide only and by just two forest types: ash and mixed species.

This removed a key foundation of Victorian RFAs that required each separate area to be managed for sustainable timber production. So instead of logging rates being reduced on account of the fires, across the Rubicon and

Marysville State Forests ash forest logging rates increased. If the pre-2010 system were restored, massive cutbacks to logging throughout the Central Highlands would be needed.

Breaches of the Code of Practice for Timber Production, such as the gigantic mega-coups on the Royston Range or ignoring agreed scenic protections, go unchecked. This happens when enforcement is left to a State Government department subject to Ministerial control, as opposed to an independent body accountable to the Parliament.

The RFAs also require that the forest reserve system be comprehensive, representative and adequate. While the current system may be comprehensive and representative, it is certainly not adequate. For example, the mountain ash ecosystem was recently added to an international list of endangered ecosystems due to the impact of recent fires and the extent of past and planned logging, plus global warming and the increased risk of future fires. The minor extensions in recent years to protect Leadbeaters possum colonies are no remedy.

We urgently need a properly-resourced public inquiry by the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council into the adequacy of the current system, during which time a moratorium should be imposed on further logging in the Rubicon State Forest.

We also need an entirely new forest management framework ahead of any possible renewal of the RFAs in 2020. A first start would be to transfer enforcement of the Code of Practice for Timber Production to an independent statutory body, to make VicForests' operations subject to the Planning and Environment Act like all other enterprises and to enshrine in legislation the need for ecologically sustainable management of our public native forests.

Nick Legge, Taggerty

Easter Fair

I JUST wanted to write in about our disappointment at the fact the Alexandra Easter Fair was not on this year. We have been coming up to Alexandra for a number of years and the Easter Fair was always a highlight and something we looked forward to this year also.

As a result we were a little lost on Sunday and even though we still made our way to town we did come away wanting. We typically stock up on local goods, olive oil, potatoes, honey, wine to name a few, sadly we could not do that this year.

We hope that whatever reasons the fair was not on (we heard it had something to do with trader disputes) are sorted out for next year and we can once again enjoy the relaxed vibe of the fair.

I'm sure that we are not alone in our disappointment and I'm hoping that others have taken the time to write in to you to voice their support for the fair and it's return next year and into the future.

Marc Dietrich,