

WEEKLY TIMES

THE VOICE OF THE COUNTRY SINCE 1869



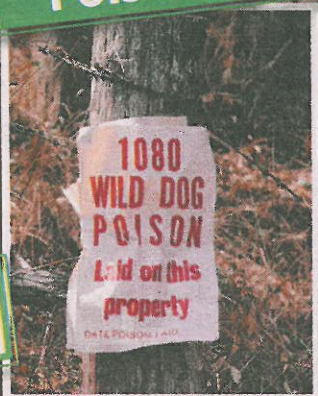
**TIMBER
INDUSTRY**



**DUCK
SHOOTING**



**1080
POISON**



**INTENSIVE
FARMING**



**GM
CROPS**



GREEN ALERT

Water, timber and farming at risk as Greens make play for power

By **ALEX SINNOTT**
and **PETER HUNT**

A GREENS grab for the balance of power at the November Victorian election risks rural communities losing access to water, timber and intensive farming practices.

The Victorian Greens are demanding an end to logging in 355,000ha of Victoria's central highlands by creating the Great

Forest National Park, phasing out all intensive farming and banning duck hunting, 1080 poison, leg-hold traps, GM crops and phasing out coal-fired power plants.

Victorian Farmers Federation president David Jochinke said the Greens' "idealistic" policies clashed with the practicalities of farming, creating a wave of collateral damage that would hit all rural communities.

"It will cost us all financially, as they push for even more parks, stop us accessing GM crops and controlling wild dogs," Mr Jochinke said. "Farmers and their rural communities will suffer."

Victorian Greens leader Samantha Ratnam said growing support had the party on track to hold the balance of power.

"It's going to be a close election and so many Victorians are plan-

ning to vote Greens for the first time, particularly in seats like Brunswick and Richmond (plus three existing seats)," Ms Ratnam said. "We also came close to winning Northern Victoria and Western Victoria (in the Upper House) at the last election and have excellent candidates running this time."

Ms Ratnam confirmed the party would pursue a moratorium on new GM crops and a probe into ex-

isting ones, a ban on 1080 poison and the expansion of marine parks.

Opinion polls show Daniel Andrews' Labor Government clinging to a razor-thin margin over the Liberal-Nationals Coalition, dramatically increasing the risk of Labor relying on the Greens to form government after the election.

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SPECIAL LIFTOUT
**MALLEE FIELD
DAYS**

INSIDE



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SHEEPVENTION**

INSIDE



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