

The Hon. WES FANG: In that instance, can you provide the rigour around how you looked at the SOP and how you tested some of the methodologies and the changes, i.e., the issues around the foaling season?

STEVEN COLEMAN: Sure.

The Hon. WES FANG: It might be that you're right and there has been some disconnect. There's been an assumption that the SOP was reviewed in 24 hours. If it hasn't, I would be interested to see the actual work that you did in relation to the changes between the previous SOP and now.

STEVEN COLEMAN: I can clarify that it was not done in 24 hours. We might be quick, but we're not that quick.

The Hon. WES FANG: I appreciate that. In relation to the recording of the cull, you'll know that I asked you questions last time. Have you at all changed your position on that? I think, ultimately, if you are to lead a successful prosecution, there will need to be some recording of the cull. It's the case, at the moment, that everyone seems to be reluctant to do that. I don't understand what that reluctance is. Would you agree that, in order for you to lead a successful prosecution, the provision of footage—not like the one that was provided to us from your organisation but a 360 camera on the helicopter and scope recordings from the shooters—would assist in any potential prosecution? Are you going to insist on that moving forward to have the SOP considered gold standard?

STEVEN COLEMAN: I've asked National Parks to consider that very method, not just for the purposes of a prosecution but just so there is transparency around what is actually happening.

The Hon. WES FANG: You've got my full support on this one, but I would also suggest that you are the RSPCA and that the Government seems quite reliant on your review of the SOP. If you were to insist that this happened, I suspect it would. Without trying to verbal you, can I request that you be more forthright in your suggestions and say that it would be an RSPCA gold standard that there is a requirement for scope sights and a 360 camera on the helicopter before any more aerial culling occurs?

STEVEN COLEMAN: I hear you, and I will continue to have those discussions with National Parks.

The Hon. WES FANG: You've just gone up in my estimations, Mr Coleman.

STEVEN COLEMAN: We've achieved one thing.

The Hon. WES FANG: From my perspective, it's important. How would you prosecute? Given that you've now had feedback on the SOP, if there is a complaint around a cull and somebody believes that they came across a decomposing carcass, and they believe that the animal was shot outside of the targeted area—if there is evidence that an animal has only been shot outside of the targeted area, which would effectively mean it's outside of the SOP, but is still dead, would that lead to a prosecution?

STEVEN COLEMAN: Potentially. It's certainly one option.

The Hon. WES FANG: And would you seek to outsource that investigation or would you seek to bring it in house, given that you had input in the SOP?

STEVEN COLEMAN: This came up last time about potentially being conflicted. I don't share that. We've made it really clear that, just because we give advice, at the end of the day, if someone is in control of managing animals and a culling program and there's a deviation from the SOPs, that doesn't prevent the RSPCA from taking action.

The Hon. WES FANG: I will get to my last question now. Previously in today's hearing, you indicated that, ultimately, you'd prefer if we weren't in this situation and that we didn't have the requirement to aerially cull brumbies. I'm going to ask more of a philosophical question. In the instance that you've got National Parks and Wildlife Service, which, under the direction of the Minister, is now seeking to aerially cull brumbies—so you've got one body wanting to shoot brumbies—who advocates for the brumby? Who advocates for it to at least be the most humane, most quick and most painless death possible if not the RSPCA? Who is best placed to advocate for a more humane way of culling brumbies if not the RSPCA?

STEVEN COLEMAN: It would be arrogant to suggest that it's only us. I think you've heard evidence today from a number of people who would advocate for the best outcome for brumbies. I'm not sure I understand your question there.

The Hon. WES FANG: We've heard that it's not the most humane way of euthanising a brumby. Ordinarily, I would've thought that the body that is most likely to advocate for the most humane method of euthanasia for an animal would be the RSPCA. In this instance, it seems that it's not. Who now has that role?