



INQUIRY INTO THE PROPOSED AERIAL SHOOTING OF BRUMBIES IN
KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK

Animal Welfare Committee

Answers to Questions on Notice

Hearing: 23 May 2024

No. Question

1. Number of horses rehomed to Wagga Wagga property – Transcript page 30

The Hon. WES FANG: Thank you, Minister, for appearing again today. I very much appreciate you making yourself available. I'll start in relation to the letter that you've actually just referenced in your opening statement.

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: To be clear, is this the letter in relation to the staff member?

The Hon. WES FANG: Yes. The one that you sent late last night. The first thing is that you've identified the very first thing that I picked out, which is that the number was clearly wrong in relation to the number of horses that were rehomed. In relation to the property in Wagga – I believe you've already indicated publicly – could you provide us with an idea of the number of horses which that person received from the rehoming program?

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: I would need to clarify this, but I believe it's about 260.

Answer:

Three hundred and one wild horses were provided to that person during the period 2020–2023, when they were an approved rehomer under the rehoming program.

2. Whole of government response to the Wagga Wagga matter – Transcript page 32

The Hon. WES FANG: Why was it left to the Premier's Department, and why was it not your department that has taken charge of this?

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: Because the Wagga Wagga knackery issue, I think, has been shocking for people, because it draws in a lot of different agencies – thoroughbred racing, rehoming, local government, the Food Authority and all of those things. It was actually as a result of a very good conversation with the member for Wagga Wagga, Joe McGirr, who said to me, "Penny, this is all over the place. How do we bring it together?" It was there that I suggested that we actually get Premier's to bring it all together. Our aspect of this is the rehoming part of it, and we take full responsibility for that but, in terms of actually dealing with what became a very complicated situation with many different agencies, my agency isn't the right person. The reason the Premier's Department exists is to bring across government and to solve those problems. I was really happy that they did that, and I think that it's been very effective in working through the various moving parts of this situation.

The Hon. WES FANG: When did the Premier's Department become involved?

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: Pretty early on. I would have to take on notice exactly when, but I can tell you that as soon as these issues came to light. Obviously, I was very concerned about the rehoming aspect of it, but it was clear that there was a whole range of other things. As I was talking to colleagues and to their officers about what we were doing – and, as I said, I had a conversation with Joe McGirr, the local member – my recommendation was we should bring Premier's into this. It was pretty early on from when it was exposed, but I would have to take on notice the actual date.

No. Question

Answer:

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water was advised on 18 April 2024 that the NSW Premier's Department would be assisting in coordinating the whole-of-government process for this matter.