

Submission
No 383

**INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially Confidential

Please ban horse riding in National Parks and cull feral horses by aerial shooting in National Parks to protect native Australian species.

Australia has a shameful record of species extinctions since Europeans arrived on the continent. National Parks, protected areas and reserves are essential for slowing and halting the rate of species extinctions currently occurring in Australia and New South Wales (NSW), by providing protection from habitat destruction, habitat fragmentation and the adverse effects of introduced species such as horses.

There are no native hard-hoofed mammals in Australia, so all native Australian species, both flora and fauna, evolved without developing a defence against the damage caused by trampling of horses and other hard-hoofed mammals.

Access to National Parks and protected areas in NSW by all horses (ridden or feral) must be minimised so that the damage they cause to native species is also minimised.

Feral horses in National Parks and protected areas should be culled as much as possible by aerial (helicopter) shooting as this method of control is the most humane and cost effective means of reducing the adverse effects these animals have on native biodiversity.

While some people have an emotional reaction to horse culling, the numbers of feral horses (like feral pigs, donkeys, camels, foxes and cats) must be reduced as much as possible to prevent prevent extinctions of more native Australian species.

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