

**Submission
No 1**

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

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I believe we haven't seen a complete picture of the Brumby issue in Kosci and other alpine regions in Australia.

Please read just to get a balance on the argument concerning culling the horses to keep numbers down.

Locals in and around Kosciusko have been alarmed at the Government modelling by Matt Kean to establish Brumby numbers, as it is based on a logarithm, and a figure of 20k has been bandied about.

Anecdotal evidence points to a very different number. Since the fires in January many groups of known Brumbies haven't been seen, they are quite obviously decimated and aerial surveys by concerned locals and figures by Joanne Canning (equine specialist) based on removals and breeding cycles has established a more credible figure of 2k.

The most important aspect of all these figures is of course the environmental damage attributed to Brumbies.

Equine Wildlife Ecologist Craig Downer has studied the Brumbies and their habits and has established they are unfairly blamed for pig and deer damage.

Feral pigs have the capacity to have 2 litters a year of up to 15 piglets and are in untold numbers up around Kosci. Pigs lift up grass in clods when feeding to eat the roots of plants and leave areas decimated. Deer are also in huge numbers and both are being culled.

Horses as a large herbivore with incisors are actually more adapted to eating small woody shrubs, they keep fuel load down, and their manure is brilliant for the soil, as seeds pass through their digestive system intact and are redistributed in a beneficial way.

They also move in single file using well worn established paths, as the likelihood of breaking a leg in rabbit or wombat holes is high.

They certainly drink from waterways but the finger being pointed at them for the decimation of the Corroboree Frog, The Broad Toothed Rat and Smokey Mouse are better attributed to 20 odd million feral cats Australia wide (Australian Govt figure) and foxes who frequent the area eating several small mammals a day.

Horses accidentally standing on them is ridiculous. The Govt website for these threatened species attributes their near extinction to chalets, roads and infrastructure, Feral cats and foxes as the main culprit. and the worldwide Chytrid Fungus. Brumbies barely rate a mention.

The fact that culling and onselling brumbies to knackeries is incredibly lucrative must be looked at. Pathetic token efforts are made by the Government to rehome brumbies, many people complain about the difficult process where you must take at least 5 horses.

Huge efforts are made by sanctuaries to rehome horses but are met with secretive and evasive information from the government bodies involved. Culling and trapping taking place in the dead of night, and when the park is closed to the public.

The understand emotional side of this argument is not your concern, but brumbies are truly amazing animals who helped forge this country and their service during wartime shouldn't be dismissed. They deserve a high country sanctuary where they are safe and not herded to their death.

Please read the link below from equine specialist and Wildlife ecologist Craig Downer in support of their beneficial effect on the environment.

We know this 'environmental damage' is a furphy perpetrated by those that wish to eradicate them completely. Pictures taken of damage are never where horses are gathered, and as small groups of

1 stallion, several mares and several foals is a typical sized group there are never large numbers together.

The government simply want them gone and are hiding behind this lie to continue to wipe them out.

Many overseas horse populations are humanely controlled with contraceptive darting, and groups of Brumby supporters, some of them Vets have proposed to volunteer their time to do this for free in Barmah, but have been completely ignored. I truly wish for you to understand the true facts here, the Government has an agenda and won't be honest about their motivation.

Below is one of many available links on the subject.

Thanks for reading.

Regards

Paula Ross

[tps://www.horsetalk.co.nz/2020/06/10/defence-australias-brumbies/](https://www.horsetalk.co.nz/2020/06/10/defence-australias-brumbies/)