

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

As a veg*n for decades (a choice made for the animals & for the environment, despite being against my personal interests & preferences) ... the idea of killing beautiful sentient beings, due to the consequences of the decision of humans (historically or recently), to me, is abhorrent!

I have had experience culling animals, mostly introduced species, on private property, as a shooter, on foot and using 4WDs, in rough & rangey variously-treed country; decades ago.. I understand that there is no truly humane, compassionate, safe way to euthanise these spirited and large animals, in mountainous country. An accurate head-shot from the air, by a professional shooter, is the better of the 'bloody awful' options; especially compared to other on-ground options with consequences for the natural environment and the native flora & fauna. Other options also have consequences for the horses, injuries being unavoidable, unable to be attended to immediately, in some circumstances.

As much as I care for the horses, they are an introduced species. The native animals, of every variety, especially the unique and endangered species, their habitats, the native flora, and the broader environment, must be prioritised.

If the culling is delayed for another season, then more horses will have to be killed. In the meantime, the damage to the native animals and plants will be worsened. If all of the horses aren't culled, then they will just breed again, and continue the damage. Even one horse can do damage, disrupting habitats for breeding by native species.

There have been years of research, and reviews, and emotional opponents to the killing of horses protesting loudly. (Under other circumstances, in different environments, that would be me protesting!) And, a few horses have been captured and relocated. But, not many; seemingly for reasons of injury, cost, management and low interest in rehoming. If there were other effective solutions, the horse supporters have had years to make it happen. But, despite good intentions, they haven't.

How has the horse supporters' capacity to solve the problem, in any other way than aerial shooting, changed? They don't seem to want to solve the problem, or they don't see it. Meanwhile, the situation gets worse for all the animals involved. And another foaling season is here.

It's tragic. It personally upsets me, to support the killing of horses. But, these are the consequences of human errors of the past. Ongoing deaths of multiple native animals, per each horse, is more tragic. Saving, restoring, and protecting our unique environment and native animals and plants, is critical.