

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I call for the immediate cease of brumby culling, an enquiry into what has been happening and the immediate repeal of 'Wild Horse Heritage Act'.

Brumbies have been here over a century and along with the remote historical cattlemen huts, they are considered part of the early pastoralist cultural heritage of the high country.

They emulate planned grazing regenerative agriculture helping to maintain grassland and grassy woodland reducing fuel loads.

Unlike paddock raised animals, they are constantly moving and do not overgraze. Their manure improves soil fertility and the soil ecology. They like grass not moss, are slow breeding, and while still considered hard footed animals they have softer feet than those with shoes. It is doubtful whether some trampling, and erosion where they drink is necessarily invasive.

Often inaccurate estimates of populations are used to justify biocontrol grants for widespread poisons, diseases, and inhumane methods. These decisions usually have minimal community consultation, assessment of invasiveness at local levels, and acknowledgement of ecosystem function, services, and values that the target species may have. This is possibly the case with regard to the brumbies.

Aerial shooting is an inhumane and abhorrent act that creates terror and fear in the herd, with foals being separated from mothers and individuals left maimed. To say they use expert marksmen is garbage. They rarely get a "clean kill".

Footage coming out of the USA of the hideously maimed and long suffering native horses using this same proposed method should be tabled in support of such an inquiry.

I call for the immediate cease of this cruel and horrific culling and repeal of 'Wild Horse Heritage Act'.

<https://www.ecolsoc.org.au/news/the-science-is-in-aerial-cull-of-feral-horses-needed-to-reduce-their-impacts-in-the-australian-alps/>

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/nsw-threatened-species-scientific-committee/determinations/final-determinations/2017-2018/habitat-degradation-and-loss-by-feral-horses-equus-caballus-key-threatening-process>

<https://www.science.org.au/supporting-science/science-policy-and-analysis/evidence-briefs/feral-horses>

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/charles-sturt-university-ecologists-back-aerial-culling-of-alpine-brumbies-20160826-gr1o01.htm>