INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED AERIAL SHOOTING OF BRUMBIES IN KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK

Name: Mr Iain McMillan

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As a professional shooter for over 25 years I can categorically say that aerial shooting is not a humane option for the control of any group of animals no matter how good said shooters say they are. The movement of the helicopter and vibration of the machinery does not allow for an accurate aim before the shot. I have shot from multiple types of vehicles and the only way to allow for pinpoint accuracy is to stop the vehicle.

It is also unethical to shoot a running animal with a rifle again because the chances of wounding said animal is very high. Therefore once again presenting an inhumane outcome as found by courts after the aerial cull carried out in the Guy Fawkes National Park leading to the prosecution of those involved for animal cruelty.

There is also the major issue of the counting method being used.

The minister in charge Ms Sharpe has previously challenged the Cairns method when used to estimate kangaroo numbers when a cull was proposed and yet she feels quite comfortable using the same flawed method for horses!

As with so many policies being implemented recently it seems that there may be an alternative agenda to wiping out the horses within the KNP as if the quoted figures are culled this would be the outcome.

I would therefore like to urge the committee to at the very least defer any cull or removal of horses until a proper count has been carried out by a neutral body overseen by representatives from both interested parties.