

**Submission
No 13**

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

Name: Mrs Joanne McMillan

Date Received: 31 August 2023

To whom it may concern

Once again we find ourselves faced with the prospect of a major cull of the Brumby population thanks to what can only be described as a very flawed estimation of numbers using an alleged accurate method of counting.

My first concern is how can we trust a system that by it's own admission gives a range in numbers from 8000 to 20,000+ using its magic formula? There is no other situation in life where such a massive discrepancy in numbers would be acceptable so why here apart from the need of the government bodies responsible to justify their actions.

Then we're hearing rumblings by Ms. Penny Sharpe MP that aerial shooting may be reintroduced.

This was taken off of the table after John Barilaro introduced the Brumby Bill and should quite rightly remain a no go option. The cruelty of getting numbers on the ground quickly is the only reason for this method. Humane kills cannot be guaranteed and if the RSPCA and other alleged animal welfare organisations had the balls to stand up against animal cruelty instead of worrying about government funding this would not be happening.

The recent inaccurate count was only carried out in a poor attempt to pour oil on the stormy seas of protest against over shooting animals that have already suffered significant losses after the bush fires in 2020. Ask the locals on the ground who know the mobs and they will tell you that the numbers are down and tell you of the remains of dead horses.

For some reason the government has singled out the Brumby as the devil that is doing everything evil within the parks. With the backing of groups like Reclaim Kosciusko and the Invasive Species Council who receive government funding and are pushing hard for the eradication of the horses so that they can have their playground for weekends and only save certain species. Now let's not let facts get in the way of a good story.

The animal causing the most devastation planet wide is man with global warming, deforestation etc etc. Is the government prepared to cease the building of the latest hydro scheme in our national parks due to the damage to flora and fauna it's causing? No, because we as humans need electricity. It's our right to cook food and sit on our arses watching the bullshit propaganda spewed out of our TVs day in day out. Is the government going to stop the continuing rape of our land for money? No, because money makes the world go round.

And yet we are willing to eradicate the very horses our colonial ancestors released into the wild because they no longer suits our needs and because they are an easy scapegoat to blame for the mismanagement of the bush by an inept park service.

The horses are part of the white fellas history. The first settlers whether brought here as prisoners or as settlers to a new land. If they had been here before us no doubt they would be protected but as they have been here as long as the first white settlers they too deserve the protection afforded to other pieces of our colonial history.

If a management plan is needed it should be done humanely and sympathetically by people who have a grasp on the reality of the situation and not by government employees or contractors out there to do a job as quickly and efficiently as possible where cost effectiveness is the only aim.

It's time for anyone with a heart and a soul to step up to the plate and be heard. We will not be railroaded into a decision that will be regretted for eternity.

Kind regards

Jo McMillan