

**Submission
No 15**

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

Name: Mr Robert Nowak

Date Received: 31 August 2023

We are strenuously opposed to Brumbies being shot.

We seek recognition of the Heritage value of Brumbies at a Commonwealth level and non-lethal management plans in the States that will protect sustainably managed mobs for all future generations.

Brumbies hold significant cultural and social value for most Australians. Today's wild-living Brumbies are bloodline descendants of War horses.

Brumbies have featured in books and film. Who hasn't read 'The Silver Brumby' or 'The Man From Snowy River' or seen the film?

The Australian wild living horse, the Brumby has become Iconic.

The Heritage and iconic value of the Australian Brumby has been recognized internationally in film and books, with many statues and commemorations erected in their honour in Australia

Australian Brumbies supported soldiers in the Boer War and World War 1. Australia's Light Horsemen are legendary, a part of our Commonwealth War Effort, and 'Bill the Bastard' was "one of the bravest steeds". Brumbies living in the Bogong High Plains have been tested and recognized as having Waler DNA, the same as their forebear the brave War horses who supported our soldiers at Beersheba.

136,000 horses, many Brumbies were mustered and trapped from the Great Alpine Park, and stations and followed Australian soldiers to war. Only one returned to Australia.

Link to Anzac.org.au and 88 entries about Light Horsemen and War Horses

<https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/search/content?keys=War%20Horses>

Despite there being significant constituent demand for protection and conservation of wild-living Brumbies, including from indigenous Australians, State Governments in both New South Wales, Victoria and Canberra, continue to engage in barbaric and cruel shooting sprees of wild living Brumbies fuelled by rhetoric from extremist environmentalists, based upon "inconclusive" or any evidence that Brumbies harm the environment and native wildlife they have evolved with, symbiotically, for nearly two centuries.

These shooting sprees, have been nothing less than barbaric, leaving many Brumbies with non-lethal single shots to the gut, neck and other parts of the body, dying in a cruel and barbaric manner.

The shooting sprees fail to support Standard Operating Procedures or comply with Best Practice for management of wild horses. The treatment of Brumbies in this country in each State has caused and continues to cause community hostility and unhappiness due to the nature of its cruelty and inhumane treatment.

It is asserted, wild-living Brumbies must be given special consideration based upon their cultural/historical link, the contribution made by the forebear of today's wild-living Brumbies to the Commonwealth War efforts and the nature of the special bond between Light Horsemen and Light Horses, the forebear of wild-living Brumbies, and their cultural and social history in this country.

We must find ways to protect and respectfully conserve surviving wild-living mobs of Brumbies, failing which we will tear down not only innocent sentient creatures but the connection our Light Horsemen had and continue to have with Brumbies, their children and their grand-children, immortalized in bronze statues across Australia, the most famous Brumbies that carried our

soldiers into war in Bersheeba and the Boer War, and recreated in social demonstrations of ridden and led mounts at Anzac Day ceremonies across Australia every year, at the opening of football events and ceremonies.

Brumbies are part of the cultural history!

Sincerely

Robert Nowak