

**Submission
No 18**

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

Name: Ms Stacey Bolton

Date Received: 2 September 2023

Subject: Submission on the Proposed Aerial Shooting of Brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed aerial shooting of brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park. As a concerned citizen of New South Wales and an advocate for animal welfare, I believe it is crucial to address the issues surrounding this matter comprehensively.

1. Methodology for Brumby Population Survey:

The methodology used to survey and estimate the brumby population in Kosciuszko National Park has raised significant concerns. Independent Bio-statistician Claire Galea's recent report highlighted flaws in the counting methods, including the inaccuracy of adding up horse counts from different years. I urge the committee to investigate and ensure transparency and accuracy in assessing the brumby population.

2. Justification for Aerial Shooting:

The proposed aerial shooting of brumbies must be thoroughly justified, taking into account urgency and the accuracy of the estimated brumby population in the park. Aerial shooting is a heartless approach that should only be considered as a last resort, if at all. Alternative, more humane methods should be explored and prioritized.

3. Endangered Species and Environmental Impact:

It is essential to assess the status of endangered species in Kosciuszko National Park and evaluate the potential impact of brumby control methods on these species. Environmental damage cannot be solely attributed to brumbies, and a holistic approach should be taken to address all contributing factors.

4. History and Adequacy of Laws and Policies:

The history and adequacy of New South Wales laws, policies, and programs for the control of wild horse populations, including the 'Aerial shooting of feral horses (HOR002) Standard Operating Procedure,' should be examined to ensure they align with contemporary principles of animal welfare and environmental conservation.

5. Animal Welfare and Human Safety:

The welfare of animals subjected to aerial shooting must be a paramount concern. Additionally, the safety of humans within Kosciuszko National Park during these operations should be thoroughly evaluated to prevent any potential harm.

6. Impact of Previous Aerial Shooting Operations:

The impact of previous aerial shooting operations, such as the one in Guy Fawkes National Park, should be studied to understand the consequences and lessons learned from such actions.

7. Exploration of Alternatives:

Efforts should be made to explore and implement alternatives to aerial shooting, including non-lethal controls and management strategies that prioritize both animal welfare and conservation.

I believe that a moratorium on all killing should be considered as an immediate step to prevent further suffering and allow for a comprehensive examination of the issues at hand.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the committee to consider these points and take a compassionate and evidence-based approach to addressing the issues surrounding brumby management in Kosciuszko National Park. I am hopeful that this inquiry will lead to positive changes that prioritize the welfare of brumbies, the conservation of the park, and the values of the people of New South Wales.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Stacey