

Submission  
No 22

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

**Name:** Mrs Sally Weston

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Dear Minister

I am contacting you to voice my concern regarding the proposed amendment to the NPWS Plan of Management for Horses. There is absolutely no reason for this amendment to be adopted. The numbers of wild horses in Kosciuszko National Park have been grossly exaggerated and no changes whatsoever should be made to the Plan until a new properly conducted numbers count is undertaken.

To propose aerial culling as an appropriate method of horse control is an abuse of power by NPWS. This method of horse control was deemed to be cruel and barbaric after the Guy Fawkes National Park massacre and the then minister Mr Debus declared it would never be used again. This is NOT management, it is a completely unbalanced attempt to eliminate one species above all else. Some of the substantial funds currently used on obsessive horse control would be far better directed to where they are badly needed such as control of deer, pigs, foxes, rabbits and feral cats, all of whom do untold damage to the environment and are causing a serious decline in native animal populations.

The amendment itself is extremely vague with no qualification on how and when aerial culling of horses may occur, thus giving NPWS free rein to use this practise as and when they please. The amendment is so lacking in detail it is open to successful legal challenge. There needs to be a moratorium on horse slaughter until a new independent count is conducted.

There now needs to be an investigation into the conduct of NPWS and their management practises, not only concerning their unbalanced view of horse control, but also the lack of appropriate management practises in many other areas such as fire hazard management. Many local residents live in fear of the next out of control inferno that will have it's origins within the national park and will spread rapidly to properties that border the park.