

**Submission
No 30**

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

Name: Ms Melinda Sheldon

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Dear Members of the Committee

I am writing to express my deep concern and wholehearted support for the welfare and preservation of brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park.

This Parliamentary Inquiry provides a crucial platform to shed light on various aspects of brumby management, including counting methodologies, non-lethal controls, and the proposed aerial shooting, which I strongly oppose. I believe it is of utmost importance to address the issues surrounding brumbies in a fair and compassionate manner, while considering alternative solutions to their management.

The treatment of brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park has raised significant ethical concerns. Recent incidents, such as the shooting of entire herds, including pregnant mares and foals, have demonstrated the inhumane nature of current practices. The trauma inflicted on these majestic animals is unacceptable, and it is our moral responsibility to find more compassionate solutions.

It is essential to recognize that environmental issues in Kosciuszko National Park are complex and multifaceted. Blaming brumbies alone for environmental damage oversimplifies the problem. Contributing factors such as Snowy 2, tourism development, 4-wheel driving, and agricultural runoff must also be considered in a comprehensive and balanced approach to conservation.

Furthermore, the counting methods used to estimate brumby populations have been called into question due to their flawed nature. Independent reports have highlighted these flaws, emphasizing the need for transparent and accurate methodologies. This Inquiry provides an opportunity to address these concerns and establish more reliable population assessments.

I implore the committee to consider the overwhelming public sentiment against aerial shooting, trapping, and the killing of brumbies. I encourage the committee to prioritize humane and sustainable approaches to brumby management and to consider a moratorium on all killing as a viable alternative.

In conclusion, I urge the Committee to take a compassionate and evidence-based approach in addressing the challenges faced by brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park. Let this inquiry be a beacon of hope for these iconic animals and a testament to our commitment to ethical wildlife management.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing issue, and I trust that the committee will act in the best interests of both brumbies and the community.

Yours sincerely

Melinda Sheldon