

**Submission
No 32**

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

Name: Dee McNeill
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Hello

My submission is for a moratorium on the current planned activity. My reasons for this are outlined below.

The survey methodology for counting brumbies has significant flaws, highlighted by Independent Bio-statistician Claire Galea's recent report. Adding up horse counts from different years is not accurate or ethical – it's deception, not statistics.

Implausible population estimates from flawed modelling techniques have been an ongoing concern, and one the Animal Justice Party has raised over many years. Thai Inquiry will be investigating current methodologies and calling for transparency and accuracy when assessing the brumby population.

Brumbies have been unfairly scapegoated for too long. Environmental damage in Kosciuszko National Park cannot be solely attributed to brumbies; there are numerous contributing factors, including Snowy 2, increased tourism development, 4-wheel driving, and agricultural runoff.

Recent incidents have highlighted the brutality brumbies face. In September, the Liberal-National Government shot an entire herd of brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park, causing immense trauma to the community. Many horses suffered slow and agonising deaths, including pregnant mares who lost their foals. This is not humane.

In May of this year, 67 horses in Kosciuszko National Park met a similarly brutal fate, shot in their necks and left to bleed out. Pregnant mares and foals perished. The government may label its brumby shooting and trapping program as humane, but it is anything but.

The true extent of the killings and the fate of these horses remain uncertain.

I look forward to hearing of common sense returning to this topic.

Regards, Dee