

**Submission  
No 37**

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

**Name:** Miss Helen Guy  
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No ground or aerial shooting of Brumbies should take place because both are proven to be cruel.

You should be aware of why there is currently Legislation to prevent aerial shooting, viz the Guy Fawkes Massacre and the Singleton Army Base Massacre.

<https://snowybrumby.wordpress.com/guy-fawkes-brumby-slaughter/#part4>

PLEASE VIEW THE VIDEO PARTICULARLY IN THIS REPORT

<https://www.2nurfm.com.au/news/hundreds-of-wild-horses-killed-during/>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-20/singleton-army-base-brumby-cull/10825206>

<https://www.2gb.com/nothing-short-of-a-massacre-aerial-culling-of-wild-brumbies-goes-ahead/>

During these massacres horses were not killed humanely as it is not possible to shoot a horse from a moving helicopter while the horse is moving. Horses need to be shot in the head for a clean kill. Some of these horses took up to 10 days to die. The trauma of what happened still haunts neighbours who had to view it. Interestingly one of the main perpetrators is the main architect of this current action which is abhorrent. The backlash and the court case has obviously not had any effect on his callous nature.

Search your hearts also. Horses are as sentient as your own children. How would you like them treated? Why do you take an animal to a Vet to be euthanised? Why don't you just take it out into your backyard and bash it with a hammer and let it die slowly. That would be the same as shooting a horse from a helicopter or even ground shooting a moving horse. Those who think aerial or ground shooting is humane do not know anything about a horses, either its conformation or its nature being a flight animal.

You are putting the cart before the horse – A realistic count without distances software must be undertaken .

**Population counts are flawed**, proven by Equine Scientist, Joanne Canning, and Biostatistician Claire Galea. If there were between 14,500 and 23,000 (although that seems to be increasing weekly and I think is now up to 25,000) why do people who walk extensively over those mountains weekly only see around 90 horses in a day and they know where the mobs roam. There **must** be new population counts using different methodology. Based on evidence to date, **it is only reasonable the government must obtain a new population survey**. At least one Politician flew for a few hours last year where the numbers are said to be 85% and saw around 900 horses.

Unfortunately the well organised count a couple of months ago that saw 653 horses counted twice over 2 days was ignored and since then hundreds of horses have been removed, some to re-homers and many truckloads to the Corryong Knackery which is an utter disgrace and so traumatic for the horses.

Counting horses by helicopter and then adding on what you can't see and then putting it through a Scottish computer program designed for counting fish and birds is wrong, and even the St Andrews University does not agree with the eventual numbers which they know are not possible for the species and have said so. The horses are not increasing as is quoted – it is an travesty to keep reporting this utter nonsense.

Those who care to go to the mountains know the horses do not do the damage as is well documented by our submissions to the Senate Enquiry. This is also known to those who say they do have an impact but for some reason they hate horses and continually report outlandish facts, even against what the Taronga Zoo and Melbourne Museum say in relation to the Corroboree Frog. There is evidence of the good that horses do which is ignored and some of the species they are said to endanger are not even living where the horses are. One prominent supposed Professor even says

horses can have up to 4 foals per year and he has seen them eating another horse and they chase cattle till they drop dead so would do the same to kangaroos!! Another that he had to dash into a public toilet to escape a horse. This man obviously has a phobia or another huge problem. This one calls himself a Professor but is only an Associate Professor and just given that title.

**Lower real numbers** are likely to confirm, gentle rehoming may be suitable and adequate, when an independent report on population and impact is prepared. Rehoming may not be warranted due to the lack of evidence about negative impacts, and low numbers, and removing brumbies will not change anything.

I refer to report "Assessment of animal welfare for helicopter shooting of feral horses"

( Jordan O. Hampton, A ,H, Glenn P. Edwards B Brendan D. Cowled, C, David M. Forsyth, D, E Timothy H. Hyndman, A Andrew L. Perry, F Corissa J. Miller, G, Peter J. Adams and Teresa Collins A)

The report raises questions about whether or not shooting horses from a helicopter is an effective tool to reduce populations and based on results, aerial shooting can only be found to be cruel and inhumane.

Regardless of how skilled a shooter is, there is no guarantee all horses will be humanely euthanised with a single gun shot, (as required per SOP's) and many will be left to die drawn out deaths in a cruel and inhumane way.

The research was conducted in Central Australia, in a flat un-treed environment, bearing no resemblance to the terrain of high level treed canopies and mountainous areas, where brumbies live in either Victoria or New South Wales

The flat central Australian landscape gave clear visibility to shooters, and although visibility was high, the shooters still delivered 1 to 6 shots per horse, but limited head shot or even a head and chest shot was possible, delivering a quick death, horses were peppered with shots to legs, backs, flanks and spine.

And even so, success rate of death, was not a "humane death", but subsequent death was only **63%**.

Fly back was not prompt to ensure all horses were dead. In a treed environment with limited visibility, the fly back and check on death, will be even longer and will lead to extended deaths, if all horses are able to be located in a canopied or mountainous area with wounded horses hiding.

This research has proven aerial shooting not to be a humane and acceptable approach to wild horse management in Victoria and New South Wales.

The report confirms that aerial shooting cannot and does not satisfy standard operating procedures.

Aerial shooting is influenced by many factors, including shooter skill, shooter fatigue, helicopter pilot skill and capacity, on the day of shooting.

Standard Operating Procedures do not support ground shooting free roaming horses where a clear view of a single horse cannot be achieved to ensure a clean head shot (preferred).

Shooting a mob of roaming brumbies will result in horses running after the first shot, whether or not a silencer is used. The startle of a horse falling will cause other horses to run with fear with a resultant blood bath as shooters try to take head shots, which will be impossible and has led to horses being found with gut shots, shots to the neck and back legs and mouth, all of which will have suffered long drawn-out deaths.

Finally, I oppose brumbies being shot in traps. It is cruel and unnecessary.

**Conclusion:**

I am totally against aerial shooting which can never be humane.

I am totally against ground shooting as it is proved even during 2022 and 2023 that it cannot be humane.

I am totally against shooting in traps.

A realistic count must be undertaken with all stakeholders present which I know will prove there would be no more than 1,000/1,300 horses in the whole Park and the evidence of no damage to be acknowledged.