

Submission
No 40

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

I strongly oppose the re-implantaion of Aerial shooting of brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park and anywhere else in NSW. We must never forget the cruelty that happened during the Guy Falke's killings in 2000 and the equally if not even worse aerial shooting in Northern Territories also early 2000. Evidence is strong that it is not possible to shoot the majority of horses via a instant kill shot through the head or heart. With the many bullet holes found in the dead horses, only very few was also found with shots to the head or heart, which means they suffered massively before they died. It seemed more than a mad man's killing frenzy than humane shooting of the horses. Horses weight 4-500kg, which is a lot more than both deer and pigs and a much larger calibre bullet is therefore needed, which in return is massively dangerous for any person or native animal caught in the cross fire. We saw recently how 2 hunters nearly got shot in WA or how hikers nearly got killed in NSW. We must also remember the knock off effect of shooting the brumbies by helicopter. The shooters fire a lot more rounds which means the eagles and goannas which feed of the carcasses will get led poisoning. This is very well scientifically established. See attachment. Then there's the increase in pig and wild dog numbers as they will feed off the carcasses which means they will breed more and they wont lose any young to starvation, which otherwise keep the numbers down.

You all know the number of brumbies already is way below the agreed 3000 and they roam on 1.6mill acres. Do the math of how many acres that is per horse. Obviously they can therefore not be the destructive pest you claim. Therefore, there is absolutely no need for even thinking about aerial killing. I know you want it, as it has become to difficult to find brumbies to trap, therefore it would save time and money to just shoot them from a helicopter. It is however despicable on so many levels.

So why am I not as upset about aerial killing of pigs and deer? The same inhumane arguments can be said about those, but, they do actually do a lot of damage in the park, as they have spit hoofs. This is highly established scietifically. Your scientist should know this. Also Pigs and deer outnumber Brumbies by the thousands and do need to be culled. And lastly, brumbies have massive both heritage and economical value. We owe our lives to these majestic, powerful and sensitive animals. Many of us spend annually a lot of money visiting the park, simply to see these majestic wild horses. Also, let me refer you to the united nations and the european union who offer many millions of dollars annually for countries to rewild horses, as they have many ecological benefits and they are amazing at reducing fuel load. MAYbe it is time for you to look at the benefits (reduce wildfire fuel load, spread the seeds of flora, creates refuge and food in winter time for other wildlife) and harvest these benefits, rather than looking at the little damage 1500 horses do on 1.6mill acres and focus on the real culprits, humans, pigs, rabbits, cats, foxes and deers. In that order. (the brumbies are not even on your own top ten over invasive animals) Maybe it is time to contact the UN and rewilding Europe to see if you use the brumbies in rewilding projects and in return recieve a big part of all the money they would pay you to do so. And then use the brumbies to increase tourism. As they do in the US, Europe and NZ. Stop the bullets, focus on the environmental benefits, turn them into financial solid tourist and rewilding attraction, and gain 250.000 new votes. One must also remember that wild horses live in highly social societies, can feel a humans heartbeat 8 meters away, can tell your sad from happy face and feel your sadness. They are as social and emotional intelligent as humans, which is highly rare in non-human animals. Aerial shooting is therefore as inhumane as it can be, only out-horrified by going to the knackery.

Start looking at fertility programs and use volounteers to do the hard work. This is successfully done in both the US and NZ. But as the numbers already is below 3000, all you have to do is trap a few horses each year and there are rehomers for a 100 horses annually. So, you possibly wont need neither fertility nor lethal action.

You allow 4wd, camping, ski slopes and resorts and mountain bike riding. The park are for all of us, and many of us do not use above but spends thousands of dollars annually in and around the

park, just to see the brumbies. Use these animals wisely and the brumbies can be a big financial gain for you. Be humane and be smart.

I repeat I stand strongly again re-implementing aerial shooting of the brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park and anywhere else in NSW. I vote we keep 3000 brumbies in and around Kosciuszko National Park. I love Australian wildlife too, and brumbies coexist very well with these as they are sensitive animals. The endangered skink doesn't live where the brumbies roam, the corrobog frog is killed by a fungal that only lives in water (and Parks released healthy ones in a middle of a wildlife prone area which then burned, the pygma possum is threatened by ski resorts, ski slopes and climate change. Look it up. The brumbies has got nothing to do with the animals struggle- humans did this to them. Yes horse can eat an endangered flower but horses has a unique digesting system which makes them amazing seed spreaders, so they will actually replant that flower by the numbers. Yes they can also spread weed but isn't it Parks job to keep the Kosciuszko Park free of weed???? As I said. use the brumbies smartly, don't be blind and don't be led by ideology that all non-native are pests. Listen to honest and balanced science. When science totally doom something, it usually is biased research, as an animal that has existed for 50 million years can never be a pest.