

Submission
No 45

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

Name: Mr Craig Golding
Date Received: 17 September 2023

I'm writing to advise you of our opposition to the planned Kosciuszko National Park Horse Cull on the grounds that it is unethical and inhumane.

The disastrous Guy Fawkes National Park Brumby massacre of 2000 showed how inhumane aerial culling is and how difficult and unreliable shooting from a moving platform i.e., a helicopter actually is.

After this ill-fated cull, horses lay dead and dying throughout areas of the park including public areas while foals died of starvation alongside their dead mothers.

The operational statistics of the Guy Fawkes NP Cull have, as far as I'm aware, never been released but the statistics on the recent aerial Fallow Deer Cull in Tasmania's Central Plateau Protected Area have been released and they leave a lot to be desired about the ethics of aerial culling.

The operational statistics of the Tasmanian Central Plateau Protected Area Cull are as follows:

- 711 deer were "destroyed" within the project area.
- The deer consisted of 244 stags, 417 antlerless deer and 50 immature deer.
- A total of 39 flights were conducted.
- The aircraft operated for 72.4 hours.
- The aircraft traversed 113,000 hectares in a search grid pattern travelling 4,369 kms.
- A total of 4588 rounds were fired during the operational phase.
- Each deer was compulsorily shot at least 3 times in rapid succession as required by standard operating procedure.

4,588 rounds were fired to kill 711 deer averages out at 6.45 shots being needed to kill a single deer or, looking at it another way, 2,455 shots missed their intended targets in the first instance making shooting unsafe for anyone or anything on the ground during these operations.

It also highlights the often over exaggeration of pest numbers with only 0.006 deer shot per hectare!

Statistics such as these are proof that aerial culling is both inhumane and unethical.

<https://parks.tas.gov.au/Documents/TWWHA%20Deer%20Control-Summary%20Update-July%202023.pdf>

Further concerns surrounding the planned Kosciuszko NP Horse Cull is that the carcasses of horses shot will be left to rot within the park providing feed for the parks real noxious pests -feral cats, wild dogs and feral pigs, whose populations in the park far exceed that of wild horses.

The presence of these carcasses will also adversely impact the pristine waters of our alpine region and affect holiday makers, trout anglers and communities downstream from where culling occurs.

Since the announcement of this enquiry a video, uploaded to social media, shows two men running through scrub while the sound of the helicopter can be heard overhead.

The two men, both recreational hunters legally hunting on a private property in South Australia's south-east at Callendale, south west of Naracoorte, when an aerial culling team appeared and began shooting overhead.

A similar incident occurred with the Kosciuszko National Park in 2022 when "a couple of hikers were reported underneath a helicopter" while culling of deer was taking place.

Both these incidence are unacceptable and show a disdain for safe practice principles.

The Hook N Bone Alliance of Australia supports the managed control of our feral and introduced animals and seeks a solution to the wild horse issue that is both safe and humane.

Thanks and best regard,

Craig Golding

Director

The Hook N Bone Alliance

of Australia