

Submission  
No 55

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

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As a resident of NSW and as an advocate for all animals we share this country with, I would like to forward my submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry on Brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park.

I am horrified by the cruel and barbaric treatment meted out to horses who were placed in the park by humans and who have adapted to the landscape over the years who are now threatened by aerial shooting, trapping, on the ground shooting and killing because we have been led to believe that the horses are causing damage to the park. Not without a comparison to the destruction, profiteering and damage caused by human elements at this moment can we assess the true nature of the situation. It is obvious that brumbies are not causing the most substantial damage in the park.

I would like to see corrections made to the flawed counting methodology used to estimate the number of brumbies in the park and to see a cessation of the brutal trapping and killings that brumbies have been subjected to. In effect, I call for a moratorium on the carnage that is continually being played out in addition to investment being made into humane methods of the management of animals who have been deemed as problematic.

My reasoning is detailed below:

Environmental damage in Kosciuszko National Park cannot be solely attributed to brumbies; there are numerous contributing factors, including Snowy 2.0, 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 aborted 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. The brumby shooting and trapping program is inhumane. Simultaneously, the bodies of the dying and dead horses were left where they fell which further exacerbated problems with animals also deemed as 'pests' feeding off the rotting carcasses.

The true extent of the killings and the fate of these horses remain uncertain. It is inconceivable that in modern society that a government would condone such barbarism.

The survey methodology for counting brumbies has significant flaws, as 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.

I call for an investigation into current methodologies and for transparency and accuracy when assessing the brumby population. I urgently call for humane alternatives to be utilised when controlling population numbers instead: such as immunocontraception in place of cold blooded killing.

Please become kind, compassionate and fair when dealing with ALL sentient beings we share this country with.