

Submission
No 59

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 3 October 2023

Partially
Confidential

03 October 2023

Committee Secretary
NSW Legislative Council
NSW Parliament
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir or Madam

Legislative Council enquiry into Shooting Brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park

I feel compelled to draw information to the Council's attention that was previously provided to (and by) the NSW Minister.

I have attached my correspondence to _____ and a letter that was sent to _____. These letters spell out in detail the current situation and solutions at a strategic level.

What they contain demonstrate that the wild horses don't conflict in any major way with threatened species and that the existing plans were modified late in the day to accommodate native species while still looking after the heritage of the Brumbies. Where there is cross-over in protected species, then it is clear from the map provided, that they are found widely elsewhere and are not critically endangered by horses.

I note that there are two areas in Northern Kosciuszko National Park and that NSW NPWS appear unwilling to rectify this issue. The most problematic population area is northern Currango Plain where NPWS have no active management measures and have no plans to rectify same. This is appears to be contradictory and compounding the problem.

In the attached letter to _____ I offered the option that he was poorly advised by NPWS.

It is especially noteworthy that the Ministers and NPWS have ignored the Science Panel's views and that nobody is addressing a cornerstone problem, namely that there is no long time-span scientific studies in Kosciuszko upon which firm conclusions can be drawn. The only exception is _____ and his work in bushfire

grazing

I also advised that the CAP considered shooting as a last resort particularly given the public outcry and (by the carcass images I have seen) the likelihood of the painful deaths now inflicted.

I personally worked with _____ on the final plan boundaries and solutions put forward. _____ was a good listener and understood all the implications that comes with shooting horses and that shooting should only be a last resort.

NSW NPWS is not trusted by many of the horse-riding community and the CAP tried to let NPWS know this. NPWS have expressed their lack of regard in this matter to me clearly in private meetings and in my letter to [redacted] I confirmed that NPWS take a view that they are the SOLE CUSTODIANS of the high country, and they view the community as a politically appointed nuisance to be tolerated but not heard.

In terms of solutions, a more effective result to manage wild horses is to listen to the [redacted] who advised that the issue of horses near problem locations are often best resolved by removing a single leader or problem horse that is causing the bad herd behaviour. With appropriate removal, the balance of the herd will then self-relocate or disburse. This is a simple and non-violent intervention that could have saved considerable cost and community outrage.

Unfortunately NPWS' view does not allow for more subtle approaches that may require help or community assistance.

There remain several other options to obtain the same result but the ambit shooting of horses that are clearly protected as part of a proper NSW NPWS management plan contravenes the spirit if not the letter of that Management Plan and was deliberately subversive. Shooting pregnant horses remains unethical and a breach of NPWS' own Plan and was either belligerent or ignorantly stupid by NPWS management.

When [redacted], I worked closely [redacted]. They were all clear thinkers and offered excellent advice.

There remain many simple and pragmatic solutions to manage horses in KNP however NPWS actively dissuade solutions.

If you would like me to appear to address the substance of [redacted] I remain available to do so.

Yours sincerely

Attachments

- Letter to Minister Kean
- Letter to Minister Griffin
- Map of Horses and Protected Species in KNP