

Submission
No 74

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 5 October 2023

Partially
Confidential

Concern over proposed aerial shooting of the heritage brumbies in KNP.

Dear panel members, I wish to put forward my concerns with any shooting as a means to manage the massive number of horses in the northern KNP.

I am extremely concerned that the agenda is to remove by any means the brumbies from the park and feel any inquiry is already determined! I have seen the ground shooting from over the winter when the park was closed on social media and consider the way these horses were shot does NOT comply with the SOP's shooters were to follow. As it is your role to determine humane animal management it is clear to see these poor brumbies were killed in a manner to cause slow and painful deaths. If we seem to feel it is alright to allow such suffering then aerial shooting as seen in Guy Fawkes showed this point.

I would urge before any thought to use aerial or presently ground shooting you would push for the proposal presently in parliament to get a true count of the brumbies in the northern end of the park.

I have seen the methodology used to survey their numbers and it has been shown to be grossly inaccurate from the author Dr Stuart Cairns from the University of New England, states he could not clarify how the 1180 sighted brumbies could be extrapolated out to 14 000.

The numbers of brumbies is an inconvenient truth for minister Sharpe with figures obtained under the freedom of information act showing actual numbers as follows-

June 2017- total 2144

Sept 2018-total 2791

Sept 2019- totals 3110

June 2020- total 2468

Sept 2021- total 3699, with over 1000 brumbies removed since 2021 by trapping and ground shooting.

Shot brumbies from the information show-

137 shot in the southern end

80 shot in the northern end

67 shot at the Snowy Plains BUT there are probably many more we are unaware of.

In early June 2023 only 653 brumbies were counted so if we even double that number for those somewhere we are still well BELOW the 3000 brumbies allowed under the Act.

Before you consider any form of shooting by ground or air the welfare of the brumbies MUST be your concern, and to uphold humane management practices so NO animal suffers.

These figures show under the wild horse Act that NO shooting either ground or now possible aerial should occur as there is NOT the numbers of brumbies present and now with the massacre over winter even fewer are present. They have been shot inhumanely and have suffered terribly.

The facts of environmental damage are also not correct but misinformation, using false facts to meet an agenda seem to prevail. This inquiry must stop all shooting and not allow the grossly inhumane aerial shooting as it HAS been proven to leave at least a third slowly dying over days!

I urge you to firstly get a count done to establish brumby numbers and see for yourselves what damage is there in KNP, mainly from human activities that are threatening wildlife in KNP.

Thank you for your time. I really hope you will get a recount to establish brumby numbers as many know there are very few there certainly not 15 000 to 25 000 as continually mentioned. See for yourselves the little damage done from 200 years and the fantastic symbiotic ecosystem evolved to live in Australia's harsh land. I hope to see them one day when I can get over to the east but from social media of the park so far it is full of death, dead brumbies and nothing on the plains.