

Submission
No 78

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 4 October 2023

Partially
Confidential

Dear Director, Animal Welfare Committee, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000

I would like to make a submission to the inquiry into the proposed aerial shooting of the heritage brumbies in the Kosciuszko National Park and also request that you investigate the current land based shooting of the brumbies, carcasses left everywhere per my points below:

- 1) The shootings are extremely cruel as the brumbies aren't being killed swiftly, many neck shots leading to bleed outs and pregnant mares aborting foals that die slowly (many photos available).
- 2) The carcasses are being left to rot on the ground and in pristine waterways that will contaminate all waterways down stream (many photos available).
- 3) The carcass of a horse can weigh between 500-1000Kg and individuals have counted 280 carcasses in a relatively small area, resulting in huge contamination and health issues for the area, which goes against the KNP's own management guidelines.
- 4) The carcasses of the brumbies are in areas where the public walk and usually enjoy the KNP, however the stench from the bodies is overwhelming, not to mention the site of all the carcasses. Let's take our family and young kids for a walk amongst all the carcasses.....
- 5) The carcasses actually feed wild pigs and wild dogs, making the problem of feral pigs/dogs even worse.
- 6) The NSW government agreed to leave designated brumby areas and have reneged on this, without consultation to interested parties.
- 7) KNP's management has actually grossly overestimated how many brumbies are in the park according to a leading independent scientist. (her studies are available).
- 8) many horse lovers have offered to rehome the brumbies, rather than killing them and have been rejected.
- 9) These are heritage bred horses whose descendants faithfully served Australia in WW1 and helped change the course of the war in Egypt. For their service, due to biodiversity laws in Australia the horses could not be brought back to Australia and were shot by their mates (soldiers) rather than meet an uncertain, cruel future in a foreign country.
- 10) I am a user of the KNP and i have always enjoyed coming across the beautiful brumbies in the park and would be mortified and unforgettably distressed to come across the carcasses or not have the opportunity to share the park with these beautiful brumbies again.
- 11) My understanding is that part of the KNP is not considered fragile and a sanctuary for the brumbies could be made, where some of the local traditional owners who are great horsemen could look after the brumbies and the area.

I formally request that all shooting (land and aerial) and all trapping of brumbies be ceased immediately until an independent inquiry confirms brumby numbers and that alternatives, such as rehoming, birth control etc. are exhausted and that the public is consulted before any more brumbies are killed or removed and that the carcasses, as a matter of urgency, are removed from the KNP based on environmental and park user trauma.