

Submission
No 80

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 9 October 2023

Partially
Confidential

Dear Animal Welfare Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this enquiry.

Please see below my response to the terms of reference.

a) The methodology used to survey and estimate the brumby population in KNP

Outdated technology to conduct population counts has led to exaggerated brumby numbers. Alternative methods such as drone and camera should be used.

b) The justification for proposed aerial shooting, giving consideration to urgency and the accuracy of the estimated brumby population in KNP

There is no justification for the proposed aerial shooting of the few hundred brumbies left in the park.

c) The status of, and threats to, endangered species in KNP

There is no peer reviewed science that proves brumbies cause damage to their environment. Rather the environmental value of nomadic herbivores should be considered.

d) the history and adequacy of NSW laws, policies and programs for the control of wild horse populations, including but not limited to the adequacy of the aerial shooting of feral horses (HOR002) standard operating procedure

and

e) the animal welfare concerns associated with aerial shooting

The current methods used by NSW Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) is barbaric especially when there are humane alternatives out there. Luring brumbies including pregnant mares and foals into one-way steel traps is cruel. Ground shooting and aerial shooting can never be humane. Horses bolt, receiving many bullets and not dying instantly, Foals get crushed in the stampede.

f) the human safety concerns if KNP is to remain open during operations

Shootings while humans are around could result in accidental killing of humans as there are many humans around at all times - it is a popular spot for camping and leisure.

g) the impact of previous aerial shooting operations (such as Guy Fawkes National Park) in NSW

Years ago, brumbies were massacred and left to slowly die in pain. Aerial shooting should not be considered again in light of what happened on previous occasions.

h) The availability of alternatives to aerial shooting

Rehoming, fertility control program

g) Any other related matters

Any shooting of brumbies is inhumane

Horses will panic, receive numerous body shots and not die instantly

Shooing in trapping yards is inhumane and causes horses to panic, experience immense fear and be subjected to crush injuries

Tranquilising in trapping yards and then euthanising is also inhumane and causes panic, extreme fear and distress.

In conclusion, the government should put a stop to any killing of brumbies until an independent, unbiased count can be done. Once the numbers are shown to be exaggerated, there will be no need for a culling program. The brumbies are not in huge proportion and they are not destroying the alpine vegetation.

Thank you for reading my submission.