

Submission
No 84

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 11 October 2023

Partially
Confidential

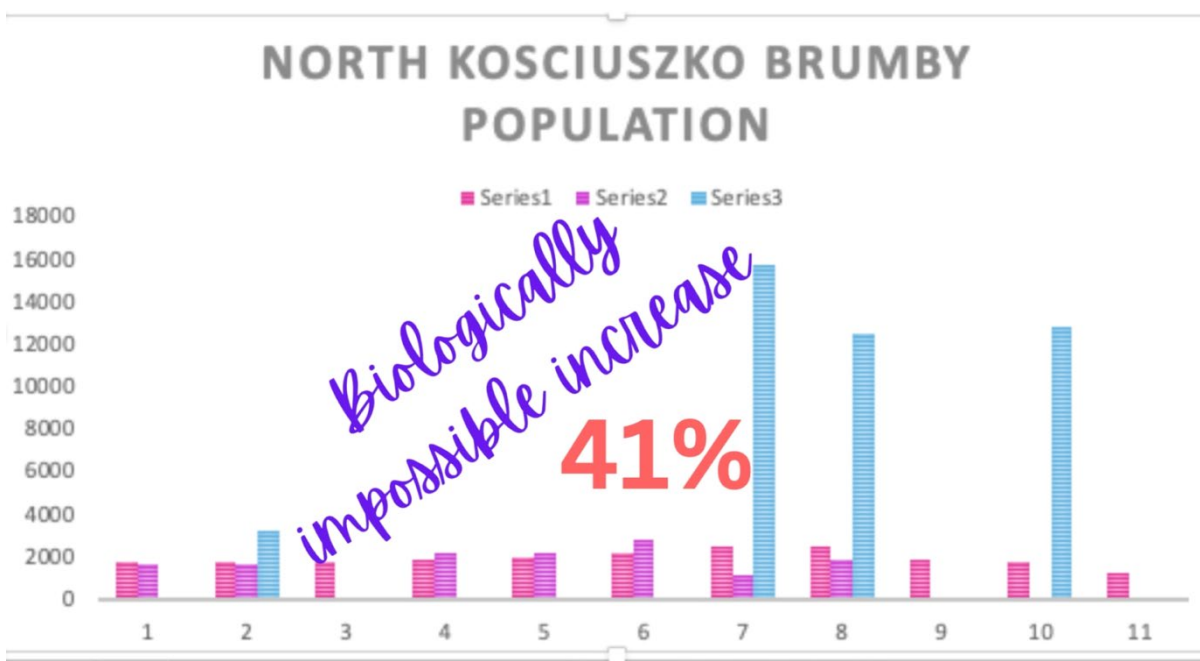
Methodology-Inaccurate data and lies

There was an impossible biological increase in numbers of brumbies in the KNP- this is contested by locals. The person doing the 'research' has a business and is paid for his inflated numbers. He uses Line Transect Sampling and the methodology has been questioned as flawed for moving objects. He also used the same methodology on kangaroos and during a NSW Inquiry, Penny Sharpe questioned his methodology. A Scottish University has refused to peer review his latest 'research' on brumby numbers.

Justification for aerial shooting, threats to endangered species

The lobby group also attributes damage to brumbies when it is pig damage. They also claim that brumby herds are a threat to native species when it is debatable that the brumby is destroying habitat of native species. They have not explained why the situation is suddenly dire after 200+ years of brumby co-existence. This relies on unrealistic figures.

<https://meetourhorsemeat.com/misinformation-about-brumbies/>



Misuse of Public Money

Penny Sharpe needs to be investigated for using public money to pay shooters based on flawed data when she questioned the same methodology used on kangaroos. There is also a person listed as a brumby rehomer who just shoots them in his backyard and sells their meat. It is not a legal knackery.

Carcass Management

Brumbies are being shot and their bodies are being left around to feed wild dogs and pigs. We already have a pig plague in NSW. This seems counter intuitive but they might be using 1080 to poison the predators. There is plenty of evidence that 1080 has secondary poisonings and native animals might be at risk.

Inhumane and cruel- Standard Operating Procedures

Brumbies do not die instantly. There is plenty of evidence that the SOP are not followed and that brumbies need 3 shots - many are shot and disabled and die a slow lingering death without being able to feed or drink. Foals are aborted and before they are born have their emerging faces chewed off by predators. Other foals are born and starve to death.

<https://pestsmart.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/03/HOR001-SOP.pdf>

There appears to be no monitoring of compliance with the SOPs anyway. Anecdotal evidence suggests that horses are not shot cleanly and many are shot 3 times.



Aerial Shooting

Now NSW is proposing aerial shooting which was banned after the Guy Fawkes debacle of 20 years ago where brumbies had their mouths shot off and died slowly because they could not eat or drink.

<https://australianbrumbyalliance.org.au/reviewing-the-october-2000-aerial-shooting-of-guy-fawkes-brumbies/>

Alternatives

There are many alternatives to shooting brumbies.

- A sanctuary means they could be removed from the KNP
- Contraceptive darting, shown to be successful overseas
- A recount and a moratorium on shooting.

References

S. C. Cairns 2022 A Survey of the Wild Horse Population in Kosciusko National Park

Joanne Canning 2023 Submission to Senate Inquiry into Impacts and Management of Wild Horses in the Australian Alpine National Park.

C. C. Downer Wild and Free-roaming horses and burros of North America. Factual and sensitive statement – how they help the ecosystem. *Natural Horse* 2005 7(3) 10-11

Claire Galea 2023 Independent Biostatistical Report on the Brumby Population in the Australian Alpine National Park

Andrea M. Harvey, Ngaio J. Beausoleil, Daniel Ramp, David J Mellor. 2023 Mental Experiences in Wild Animals: Scientifically Validating Measurable Welfare Indicators in Free-roaming Horses.

B. Owusu 2019 An Introduction to Line Transect Sampling and its Applications.