

Submission
No 93

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 11 October 2023

Partially
Confidential

Subject: Opposition to Aerial Shooting in Kosciuszko National Park

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my deep concern and strong opposition to the New South Wales Government's plan to conduct aerial shooting in Kosciuszko National Park, particularly targeting the brumby population. This announcement has been met with shock and distress among many members of the community, including those who are deeply passionate about preserving the welfare of these iconic animals and opposing any form of animal cruelty.

The proposed aerial shooting of brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park has triggered painful memories of the unfortunate events that unfolded in 2000 when similar actions were taken in Guy Fawkes National Park. Those events were a dark chapter in the history of environmental management, resulting in widespread public outrage and condemnation. It is vital that we learn from past mistakes and ensure that such actions are not repeated.

Kosciuszko National Park is a place of unique natural beauty and significance. It is not only a refuge for diverse flora and fauna but also home to a population of brumbies that have lived in harmony with the environment for generations. The brumbies have become an integral part of the park's ecosystem, and their presence adds to the cultural and historical significance of the region. There are humane and sustainable ways to manage their numbers and protect the delicate balance of this ecosystem.

I am acutely aware of the importance of conservation efforts and the need for responsible environmental stewardship. I strongly believe that the use of more humane and non-lethal methods, such as fertility control and relocation, should be explored to address any concerns about overpopulation and ecological impact.

I urge the New South Wales Government to reconsider its decision to employ aerial shooting as a method of managing the brumby population in Kosciuszko National Park. I implore you to engage in open, transparent, and collaborative dialogue with stakeholders, including environmental experts, animal welfare organizations, and community members, to find alternative solutions that protect both the unique ecosystem of the park and the welfare of its iconic brumby population.

I request the following actions:

1. Immediately stop aerial and ground shooting of brumbies.
2. Outlaw the use of all lethal control methods on brumbies.
3. Fund research into safe, humane, and effective fertility control methods.
4. Implement a humane capture and re-homing program, which also provides government support to groups and individuals taking on the care of brumbies in genuine animal sanctuaries.

5. Where there are threats that the brumbies will cause serious or irreversible damage to native animals or the environment, implement humane non-lethal methods, such as the appropriate combination of fertility control, targeted, wildlife-safe fencing, and rehoming according to the circumstances.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. I believe that by working together, we can ensure the long-term sustainability and preservation of Kosciuszko National Park while also upholding the principles of compassion and ethical treatment of animals.