

Submission  
No 98

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

**Name:** Jenny Hunter  
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“No ground or aerial shooting of Brumbies should take place because both are proven to be cruel.

Population counts are flawed, proven by equine scientist Joanne Canning and biostatistician Claire Galea. There must be new population counts using different methodology. Based on evidence to date, it is only reasonable the government must obtain a new population survey.

Lower real numbers are likely to confirm, gentle rehoming may be suitable and adequate, when an independent report on population and impact is prepared. Rehoming may not be warranted due to the lack of evidence about impacts, and low numbers, and removing brumbies will not change anything.

I refer to report “Assessment of animal welfare for helicopter shooting of feral horses”

( Jordan O. Hampton<sup>A,H</sup>, Glenn P. Edwards<sup>B</sup> Brendan D. Cowled<sup>C</sup>,David M. Forsyth<sup>D,E</sup> Timothy H. Hyndman<sup>A</sup> Andrew L. Perry<sup>F</sup> Corissa J. Miller<sup>G</sup>,Peter J. Adams<sup>A</sup> and Teresa Collins<sup>A</sup>)

The report raises questions about whether or not shooting horses from a helicopter is an effective tool to reduce populations.

Regardless of how skilled a shooter is, there is no guarantee all horses will be humanely euthenased with a single gun shot, (as required per SOP's) and many will be left to die drawn out deaths in a cruel and inhumane way.

The research was conducted in Central Australia, in a flat untreed environment, bearing no resemblance to the terrain of high level treed canopies and mountainous areas, where brumbies live in either Victoria or New South Wales

The flat central Australian landscape gave clear visibility to shooters, and although visibility was high, the shooters still delivered 1 to 6 shots per horse, but limited head shot or even a head and chest shot was possible, delivering a quick death, horses were peppered with shots to legs, backs, flanks and spine.

And even so, success rate of death, was not a “humane death”, but subsequent death was only 63%.

Fly back was not prompt, to ensure all horses were dead. In a treed environment with limited visibility, the fly back and check on death, will be even longer and will lead to extended deaths, if all horses are able to be located in a canopied or mountainous area with wounded horses hiding.

This research has proven aerial shooting not to be a humane and acceptable approach to wild horse management in Victoria and New South Wales.

The report confirms that aerial shooting cannot and does not satisfy standard operating procedures.

Aerial shooting is influenced by many factors, including shooter skill, shooter fatigue, helicopter pilot skill and capacity, on the day of shooting.

Standard Operating Procedures do not support ground shooting free roaming horses where a clear view of a single horse cannot be achieved to ensure a clean head shot (preferred).

Shooting a mob of roaming brumbies will result in horses running after the first shot, whether or not a silencer is used. The startle of a horse falling will cause other horses to run with fear with a resultant blood bath as shooters try to take head shots, which will be impossible and has led to horses being found with gut shots, shots to the neck and back, all of which will have suffered long drawn out deaths.

Finally, I oppose brumbies being shot in traps. It is cruel and unnecessary”