

**Submission  
No 101**

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

**Organisation:** Australian Brumby Horse Register

**Date Received:** 12 October 2023

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# AUSTRALIAN BRUMBY HORSE REGISTER

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[www.abhr.com.au](http://www.abhr.com.au)

My name is Margery Boylan, President and Registrar of this national body. The ABHA was established in 2005 following the horrific aerial slaughter of brumbies in the Guy Fawkes River National Park. The Register has members and authentic brumbies from all mainland States. These brumbies are valued in the show ring as a recognised breed, as therapy horses, companion horses, compete in pony club, dressage and endurance events, in reality are wonderful all-rounders.

We emphatically oppose the proposed aerial shooting in Kosciuszko National Park – refer to the shockingly inhumane deaths by aerial shooting in the Guy Fawkes River National Park referenced above. We adamantly disagree with the accuracy of the estimated brumby population in the Park. The local groups who access the Park regularly estimate a much lower number. Why not use drones which wouldn't count "unseen" horses and would not panic them – and be more accurate and humane.

Regarding damage, our rehoming groups' properties are not so affected and we question the accuracy of the reported damage. Wild pigs, deer, foxes and wild cats are seen as far more damaging, as are recreational vehicles which are taken off-track and cause severe erosion. Horses do not damage trees or consume precious fauna and they spread native grass seeds.

History and adequacy of laws, policies and programs for control of wild horses: as per many laws, policies and programs they need updating and more humane with input by knowledgeable people.

Animal welfare concerns were notably absent during the planning and execution of the aerial shooting in Guy Fawkes as evidenced by photos of horses and foals being run up against an escarpment, shot multiple times, enduring agonising deaths over several days.

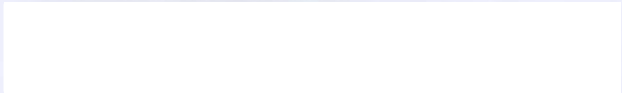
Human safety during shooting operations is a priority.

The impact of the Guy Fawkes aerial shooting resulted in a loud public outcry, a court-case, and the determination of people to (a) establish this Register and (b) set up sanctuaries and rehoming facilities.

Fertility Control: Emulating fertility control in both the USA and UK, in 2014 one of our re-homing groups undertook the first fertility control trial conducted in Australia at their NSW New England Brumby Sanctuary. This trial involved some 60 horses and was ongoing for a period of four years. The method was that horses were injected into the muscle and at the same time a GPS tracker was inserted into the neck of each horse. The GPS tracker enables the horses to be tracked. AND the injections can be administered by DART. Interestingly, the drug is manufactured here in Australia. Dr. Andrea Harvey Ph.d, initiated the trial and the results were positively successful. Dr. Harvey presented the results to NPWS, Armidale Branch.

The ABHR is of the opinion that such a program could be trialled in Australia – case in point Kosciuszko National Park - by NWPS perhaps in conjunction with one or more of the rehoming groups. It is simple, very cost effective and an efficient tool in reducing horse numbers. This, coupled with rehoming, would substantially assist in keeping horse numbers to an acceptable level into the future.

There is a Horse Reference Committee associated with the Guy Fawkes National Park which collectively discusses welfare and rehoming issues. It may be worth considering a NSW State Horse Reference Committee to enable a wider and empathetic vision/management of the Kosciuszko National Park brumbies.



Margery Boylan ~ President/Registrar

12<sup>th</sup> October 2012

