

Submission
No 119

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

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Date Received: 12 October 2023

My submission comes from a personal perspective. As a life long horse lover the opportunity to spend time camping with our wild horses in their home environment was wonderful. I did this 4 times in 2018 and 2019 at Long Plain KNP.

One of these visits I stayed at Adaminiby and drove in each day and then walked in with snow shoes. I am also a lover of all animals, insects and everything in nature and a photographer too. I understand a lot of horses' behaviour as I have worked very closely with them at Riding for the Disabled, over 25 years. The same applies to the bush and it's inhabitants. This comes from a lifetime of camping across the country. These horses are not in plague proportions. I know as I have criss crossed the park looking for them to photograph. In my estimation the number of horses in my trips to Long Plain and surrounding areas, were conservatively no more than 1,500. I would have seen no more than 300. No where near the ridiculous amounts put forward by the Invasive Species Council and proliferated by the media over and over as well as members of parliament. This was before 2019/2020 fires wiped out so many of them too. I have also seen the damage that Snowy Hydro II has created and let's not forget the original, with all the associated nude dams and pipes etc. it is a total farce and totally un true to select brumbies as the sole cause for all the supposed damage down there. If they go so should everything else. Ski fields, chalets, walking and mountain bike tracks, tourists, not to mention feral pigs, deer, rabbits, foxes, undoubtedly cats and wild dogs too. Let's not forget the awful pest the European Wasp either. The Mountain Pygmy Possum is threatened because of human intervention minimising their main dietary requirement, Bogan Moths. The Corroboree Frog is threatened not because of Brumbies damaging their environment, but the insidious amphibian chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*). The amount of tourist dollars I spent on the way to staying down there would certainly have helped in a small way the local businesses in both Tumut and Cooma. The main thing I would like to add is, what does this senseless, cruel treatment of docile, innocent animals say about the humans that insist on it and do it? Shame on all for being so heartless.