

Submission
No 143

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 13 October 2023

Partially
Confidential

Dear Animal Welfare Committee,

I, _____, would like to thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the inquiry in regards of the report on the proposed aerial shooting of

brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park and surrounding areas. These are my concerns in regards to the terms of reference.

a) The methodology used to survey and estimate the brumby population in Kosciuszko National Park

The current counting method is inaccurate due to outdated technology. There are not 18,000 or 24,000 brumbies. The computers used to generate population numbers are unsuitable. There are alternative methodology that is now readily available, and must use the drone and camera instead.

With this current brumby counting method, bio-statistician Claire Galea titled "Independent bio-statistical report on the Brumby population in the Australian Alpine National Park", also brings into question this methodology. In her summary she says: "There are concerning flaws in methodology and statistical modelling of the population estimates of wild horses in the Kosciuszko. Based on this analysis it is impossible to have any confidence in the population estimates provided". this was taken from the report on 23/5/2023.

Here are the key findings from Claire:

The survey methodology contains significant flaws that put in question the counting of wild horses. Insufficient numbers of wild horses were seen to apply statistical modelling techniques to estimate populations.

Here is the link of the video of lies relating to brumby numbers;

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=d4tshwsaE14&fbclid=IwAR2WAoJh-ALc9fZkd_3ru6kur1sFcKel-Usp570I_iPguspIJ-f8P0yBolg&mibextid=Zxz2cZ

- 70 volunteers descended on the northern end of Kosciuszko National Park, they did their own count, and only 653 horses were counted in the beginning of June 2023 over a 2 day weekend

I am also concern about the animal welfare concerns associated with aerial shooting (point of reference (e)).

Shooting of any kind is never humane, and cannot guarantee every single kill shot where the animal doesn't suffer.

Aerial shooting from a distance at a group of galloping horses, does not and will never guarantee death at first shot and end up suffering instead.

Aerial shooting from a moving vehicle for horses is definitely "not recommended," even if it been advised by Pestsmart. Because horses bolt, and many will receive numerous body shots, up to six according to reports, and will not die straight away. Foals will be crushed in the stampede. If stallions go down first, mares will be confused and likely stampede further. This lethal killing method must not take place and it is cruel.

I have heard of an assessment conducted on aerial shooting in Alice Springs, found that only 63% of horses shot from a helicopter died, and 37% of horses lingered with multiple wounds, which I call this is a damning number and indicates cruelty and an inhumane approach to managing brumby populations.

Consider re-homing and fertility control, which is definitely a humane alternative for the brumbies.

As an animal lover myself, the NSW government must do the right thing and act with a moral compass is needed. Brumbies are not to blame for anything and they are part of our heritage.

Thank you for taking your time for reading my submission, and I hope you will understand.

With kind regards,