

Submission
No 144

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

As a resident in NSW I strongly oppose the proposed aerial shooting of brumbies, I strongly oppose the ongoing trapping of the brumbies, I strongly oppose the ground shooting of the brumbies.

All these barbaric acts needs to stop immediately and an objective, independent review of any proposed damage caused by the brumbies needs to take place. The counting methods used are simply out of date methods and does simply NOT work for counting the wild horses in the australian alps. I have lived in the snowy mountains area for a large number of years and currently visit the park on a monthly sometimes weekly basis. I know the area where the brumbies live extremely well, and I have had extensive conversations with locals who have informed me about the history and the current situation of the brumbies and any so called damage.

First of all, as an animal lover the treatment of the majestic, beautiful animals has been absolutely appalling. Based on severe misinformation and a lack of trusted, true science, any so called damage simply cannot be proven. You simply cannot assume that the brumbies are the main risk for native species, as a frequent visitor who hike extensively in the area I have seen with my own eyes the very large numbers of deers, pigs, rabbits, foxes and now also ELK. These numbers combined with HUMANS and the Snowy hydro 2.0 have a much greater impact on the environment than the number of brumbies ever could. Why is the research SUPPORTING large herbivores like horses in the alpine environment completely ignored? Its quite obviously a politic agenda where credible, thorough research is ignored because it doesn't fit the narrative of NSW national parks and their environmental propaganda based on lies.

The recent study by DR Dave Berman clearly disputes the previous research and needs to be considered:

<https://australianbrumbyalliance.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/ABA-USQ-Research-Proposal-August-2019.pdf>

Example from his study:

"Design of improved experiments to measure the relationship between feral horse density and environmental impact requires improved understanding of the movement patterns and habitat use of feral horses in the Australian Alps. Studies using modern radio-telemetry devices are required for this purpose. Here we propose a world-wide literature review and research in the Australian Alps to develop an improved research design to measure the positive and negative impact of feral horses and the benefits of various management options. This work is preparation for future controlled, manipulative experimentation which should be conducted with all agencies and community interest groups involved so that the results are more likely to be accepted and result in real improvements in the management of the environmental impact of feral horses in the Australian Alps."

The link to the study has been attached.

As an avid hiker and nature lover I have hiked extensively around the areas the wild brumbies frequent and have seen nothing of permanent damage! The river streams run clear and there are plenty of the so called endangered frogs! The only damage I see is from the snowy hydro project and their staff and people using 4 wheel drives and agricultural run off. Why is no one talking about eh fact that parks allow some farmers to run their COWS in that area?

Also, the number of horses estimated is just sheer lunacy and incorrect!! If there were that many horses in the park it would be absolutely packed to the brim with horses which it is NOT.

Strategically taken photos does not show the true number of the horses. With the trapping done by national parks over the years and especially in the recent months I would argue the number of brumbies are now BELOW the amount that national parks have agreed to leave in the park. I have hiked recently in the areas where they horse usually are and it's EMPTY!!!

90% of the horses are GONE, trapped or shot by national parks. It's an absolute disgrace that this has been allowed to happen!

When i visit the park I always use one of the campsites and I speak to other campers, why they are there etc. Every single person I speak to absolutely love the brumbies and it's a part

of the reason why they are there! They most certainly don't want them removed or SHOT, many feel powerless as in what to do to stop it or have their say. A submission like this is great but the vast majority of people will never hear about this, there has no mention ing of this in the media at all, the only articles in the media is about the false reports of the so called damage they cause.

The narrative around the brumbies needs to change and the new studies and research challenging the old science needs to be taken into consideration not just ignored because it doesn't fit the narrative.

The cultural and historial meaning of these brumbies also needs to be considered, it's a massive part of the areas history, the horse have been there for as long as man has!

The truth is, the areas in the park they frequent will never be pristine again. It has been mined to the bone, ravaged by bushfires, there's asbestos in a lot of areas, the snowy hydro 2.0 is causing extensive, extreme damage to the environment that no amount of horses could EVER do. And the amount of man made DAMS have forever changed the environmental landscape in the whole of Kosciuzko national park, why is this not even considered?

Me and my whole family are completely distressed and appalled by the treatment of these beautiful animals, the lies and the harassment of the brumbies needs to stop now!

What NEEDS to happen is a royal commission into the NSW national parks and how they have handled this and the people who approved any shootings and trappings charged with animal cruelty.