

**Submission  
No 155**

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

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I write briefly to add my voice in support of properly regulated aerial shooting as a humane and sadly necessary tool to efficiently reduce large vertebrate feral pest animals, such as pigs, goats, deer and horses, that are causing damage to the environment including native animals .

I have been advocating for inclusion of aerial shooting in the tool box to manage horses in the Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) for well over twenty years.

As a member of the relevant National Parks & Wildlife Regional Advisory Committee I participated in early attempts to develop plans to reduce the adverse environmental effects due to the increasing numbers and spread of feral horses in the park and the damage they cause to nature including its native wildlife. I also participated in an RSPCA conference on removal of problem pest warm-blooded vertebrates, where aerial shooting in accordance with strict protocols was accepted as humane and efficient for larger species such as goats, pigs and horses.

I commend to this Inquiry, the findings and recommendations of the just released Federal Parliamentary Inquiry which makes it clear that the substantial and increasing damage to KNP – documented over many years including at the Feral Horse Impacts: The Kosciuszko Science Conference\*\* - needs urgent and early action, including aerial shooting.

Moving into my ninetieth year, I am tired of having to re-iterate the obvious: invasive species can seriously threaten the health and sustainability of native habitats; their numbers need to be controlled; and aerial shooting under regulated protocols is an essential humane tool for this purpose. It is saddening that the failure to address the increasing adverse impacts on KNP by growing numbers of feral horses to implement what is widely if not universally accepted as a key tool – aerial shooting – to control population increase and the harm this does to the sensitive high country environment and its unique animal life.

I also comment that horses in Australia are non-native domestic animals and those that have escaped and 'gone wild' should properly be called feral horses, in the same way as other escaped domestic animals such as feral goats, pigs.

\*\* co-convened November 2018 by the Australian Academy of Science; the Fenner School of Environment and Society, The Australian National University and Deakin University