

**Submission
No 156**

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

Name: Ms Kathryn Woolfe

Date Received: 13 October 2023

PROPOSED AERIAL SHOOTING OF BRUMBIES IN KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK

- (a) **The justification for proposed aerial shooting, considering urgency and the accuracy of the estimated brumby population in Kosciuszko National Park**

Due to the flawed population count, combined with the ongoing slaughter of the wild horses Trapping shooting/shipped to the knackery/ shooting and left to die in the KNP, there are not many remaining horses, unless we count the carcasses left in the KNP.

Therefore, considerations due to urgency is past its use by date. The population is much lower than the 3000 which is the number cited in the Heritage Horses Legislation. This suggests a serious Breach in the Legislation

Independent population counts have been undertaken and the number of Brumbies in KNP is in the hundreds, not the inflated population given by the flawed methodology utilised by those calling for the eradication of the KNP Brumbies.

Aerial Culling

The animal welfare concerns associated with aerial shooting.

I am vehemently opposed to Aerial Culling to the Brumbies at KNP. No animal deserves this misery or should be made to suffer and die in this way. I would have hoped the NSW Govt. in 2023, would have progressed beyond this outrageous lack of concern for animal suffering.

We have all witnessed the Aerial Culling of our Brumbies at Singleton Army Base and at Guy Fawkes National Park. It shocked all NSW. The suffering and images of Brumbies dying days after they were shot, cause the NSW Govt. to ban Aerial shooting.

- **Aerial shooting is barbaric, it is cruel, and causes intense suffering. It is impossible to get a clean quick shot from a helicopter. It is a disgrace to even consider such an outmoded way to manage the population of wild horses, especially when there are so few horses left in KNP, and far below the 3000 supposedly protected by the Heritage Horses Legislation.**
 - **You cannot accurately shoot a fast-moving animal from a moving platform, horses will be wounded, foals will be left behind.**
 - **Horses will be left to die for days after being shot.**
-
- **I suggest to the NSW Government to immediately stop all trapping of brumbies and allow an independent and unbiased count to be undertaken by a non-government affiliated organisation. This would throw light on the inaccuracy of the present population count of brumbies in the KNP. This count is a mathematical error, and no lethal management plan would need to be implemented because there are certainly not 3000 in the KNP, after the recent shootings which left dead horses, foals, mares, and stallions to rot in the KNP.**
- (i) **any other related matters.**
- Wild Horses are nomadic herbivores. They enrich their local environment and promote biodiversity with their unique digestive systems which allows for regeneration of seeds and grasses, as well as their selective grazing patterns which creates habitats for bugs and small birds. They also have a symbiotic relation with other wildlife, removing the horses will have an adverse effect on the ecology of KNP.
 - Climate Change suggests the likelihood of more fires and fiercer fires.
 - Brumbies are grazers and will keep the fire load down. Therefore, they are asset to the KNP during a bushfire event, during a particularly hit summer, in which native wildlife is at risk.

Australian Poet Will Ogilvie expresses the feelings of most Australians in his poem, *Brumbies* written in the late 1800s. The freedom and beauty of the brumbies and of Australia.

There are steeds upon many a Western plain
 That have never bowed to a bit or rein,
 That have never tightened a trace or chain.
 They feed in the blue grass, fearless, free
 As the curbless wind on the bit-less sea,
 And the life they lead is a song to me.
 For I know there are those in the world to-day
 Who are just such rebels at heart as they,
 Running uncurbed in the brumby way.
 Men that have never been bridle-bound,
 Bitted or girthed to the servile round,
 Men of the wide world's stamping ground.
 Who have wheeled to the Dawn: have kept lone guard
 When the soft Bush nights crept golden-starred;
 Rebels that never the world shall yard.
 There is room on this earth for the toilers too,
 And some must draw where their grandsires drew,
 And some must lope on the trails anew.
 But as long as the girth and the harness scar,
 As long as there's land unfenced and far,
 The wild mob feeds under moon and star.

Will Ogilvie

I believe Aerial culling of our Heritage Brumbies is a national disgrace. It is unnecessary, and cruel and based on untruths, and mathematical error and skewed, outdated methodology.

The mistreatment of our Heritage Brumbies is a stain on this nation. It is especially poignant to the history of Kosciusko and the Snowy Mountains, and the brave men and woman who fought and gave their lives for Australia.

Especially the men of the Light Horse Infantry.

We live in troubled times, we need compassion, and humanity more than ever if we are to survive as a progressive and moral

nation. The culling of our Heritage Wild Horses based on a flawed population count is cruel, and unintelligent, and an insult to all Australians, especially the good people of NSW.

Thank you for your time.

Kathryn Woolfe MSc.

Concerned Citizen