

Submission  
No 157

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I oppose the proposal put forth to instigate aerial culling of wild horses in Kosciuszko National Park. Firstly, as someone who has spent many years in the park, I know without question that the current method of counting is drastically overstated and inaccurate in the extreme. There are certainly less than 3000 horses in the park now, so introducing more extreme management options is unnecessary. Likewise I have personal experience in the area so the propaganda anecdotal stories of their damage is massively overstated. In an area that allows four wheel driving that tears up the ground, muddies waterways and squashes vegetation. The same area that has been torn up by the snowy 2.0 project including draining the lake killing many many animals- and yes I have the photos to show for it. Some horses running wild in this adventure playground does not impact this area. Like claiming horses severely impact threatened species that live above the snow line that are driven to extinction by snow making guns and ski resorts, which no one is stating yet claim horses "could impact them if they were in the area". It is grasping and nothing short of a biased agenda.

Then we get to the cruelty of aerial culling. There is a mountain of evidence to prove how unsuitable it is in this situation. Galloping animals running in fear being shot as they gallop never results in a clean shot. RSPCA "best practice" which is what the humane factor is based on is based on a clean head or heart shot and instant death. As we saw with the Guy Fawkes National Park Brumby Massacre, back shots partly paralysing horses and leaving them to suffer and be torn apart by predators, mares trying to abort foals while they lay dying and having a foal suffocating in the birth canal- how can any human consider this humane or acceptable on any level. No animal deserves a cruel death, and this is barbaric in the extreme. In the latest shooting massacre in Kosciuszko we have seen the wild horse carcasses- and even with ground shooting it is carried out indiscriminately. Again we have horses going having struggled, suffering after being shot but not killed to endure a prolonged and slow death, again mares aborting foals as they lay dying.

The NSW government has worked to ensure humane treatment of animals, in this case I state the thoroughbred race horses where traceability has made it so they can't be abandoned, shot or mistreated. Can you imagine how it would be received if someone shot their racehorse in the back and left it in the paddock to struggle for days and the public saw it. It is a criminal act and the RSPCA would be called, they would call police and that person would be in court convicted of animal cruelty, yet you seem to think because you don't like the animal or see it's worth, it's alright to be cruel. It is a double standard and there is no excuse for cruelty. Especially when it is based on flawed data that has been rigorously shown to be inaccurate. To sanction this knowing the issues with the count, the very weak links to actual impacts and the extreme cruelty that would be inflicted on these animals just to further an agenda would be the end of any credibility this government has. Every person ever brought on animal cruelty charges could hold up this sanction and the knowledge that the government already knows and has proof that it cannot be carried out humanely, that there is no way to use aerial culling humanely with horses in mountainous terrain- and there would be no way any cruelty charges would ever be able to succeed in this state when our government is happy to approve animals being killed in the most barbaric way sets the standard of what's acceptable. If our elected representatives cannot see how abhorrent this cruelty is and how hypocritical it would be to sanction this, then they do not deserve the elected seats the people of this state entrusted to them. History is a funny thing- any politician who votes for this action will be tarred with this for the remainder of their lives and in any public office they ever try to hold. Animal cruelty should and indeed will follow them. As it should. Any person sanctioning extreme and abhorrent cruelty and trying to justify it is as bad as the person who carries it out. It will be as if you pulled the trigger and

left the horses to suffer for days yourself. No matter what side of the debate you are on, inhumane cruelty should never be acceptable on any animal, not just ones you deem worthy. Trying to make this sound better by using words like feral and pest does not take away their right to humane treatment. Otherwise it's just the same as segregating humans by race/ colour/ religion/ gender/ orientation etc. You try saying one horse is to be cared for, protected and treated with dignity and another to be tortured and suffer just because you wish to degrade its significance. No horses are not human, but the analogy is accurate when elected representatives of the public, valiantly ignore something so important to a large portion of their constituents and think there is any way to spin this to give validity to their barbaric inhumanity in wanting to fight to inflict the cruelest of deaths. I'm disgusted this has even come to a discussion and that a civilised government would ever even entertain this idea let alone publicly support it. It's not like it is an unknown- you already have the proof it would be unconscionably inhumane.

If this vote enacts this hideous action, I hope every politician is on the ground ready to drive in as it ends to see the fruits of your actions. So you can see the wounded dragging their half paralysed bodies trying to escape a torturous death, see the mares struggling on the ground dying and aborting a foal who can't fully escape the birth canal as it's mother died trying to birth it- the foal suffocating or waiting to be ripped apart alive by wild dogs and pigs. We have all seen this inhumanity- if you haven't and you are voting on this- it's on you. You had the ability to KNOW what you are voting for. No amount of "best practice said it was humane" will save you from being accountable. It's proven best practice is not feasible. Find a better way. Do better for the wild horses. Do better for your constituents than to have their government known for animal cruelty. Be a government we can be proud of and not disgusted by. Do what you know if right- cruelty to animals should never be condoned by anyone, least of all our government.