

**Submission
No 537**

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

Organisation: Hoofs2010 Inc
Date Received: 7 February 2024



Hoofs2010 Inc

Inc 9893476
CFN/21823

Hoofs2010 Inc.
ABN 45 577 233 292

Application to Provide Testimony at the Wild Horse Inquiry

Date: 06/02/2024

To the Inquiry Committee,

I am writing to express my intent to testify regarding the re-homing of wild horses and the associated issues. With over 14 years of experience as a wild horse re-homer and trainer, I have rescued and rehabilitated over 200 wild horses through our charity, HOOFS2010 Inc.

Our re-homing program ensures that all horses rescued remain under our care for life. Before re-homing, each horse undergoes micro-chipping, vaccination, DNA recording, and gelding for all male horses. We adhere to a rigorous and precise training program, and only horses that meet our standards are re-homed. Those that do not are retained in our sanctuary for life.

I wish to address several points raised by others in the inquiry:

1. Response to Mr. Coleman: Re-homing as a Solution

Mr. Coleman suggested that re-homing is not the preferred solution. However, the imminent threat of eradication faced by wild horses under the Parks NSW eradication program has led many well-intentioned individuals to desperate measures. Transport and trapping, while may be inherently stressful, can be managed effectively. I have personally transported many wild horses without causing harm or undue stress. The horsemen working in national parks are generally experienced and prioritise safety. Videos of arrivals at our Brumby sanctuary demonstrate the calmness of the horses after transport.

2. Support for Re-homers: Re-homers Require Financial and Advisory Support

The re-homing of wild horses is crucial for preserving the genetic heritage of our European past. I advocate for initiatives, to provide financial assistance and guidance to those experienced and involved in wild horse rescue efforts. Our charity has been working since 2010 in wild horse rescue and it has all been done with the generous and kind support from the public through fundraising efforts.

3. Response to Jill Brown: DNA Testing and Genetic Conservation

HOOFS2010 Inc. has been collaborating since 2014 with Dr. Gus Cothran of Texas University to collect and record ancestry DNA of wild horses across Australia. Many of these genetic links are now recognised as endangered or rare breeds. Despite not being considered native, these horses have developed genetically robust traits with minimal inbreeding or conformational faults.

4. Government Funding and Management Strategy

The root cause of re-homing challenges lies in the lack of government funding, which primarily supports eradication programs rather than humane alternatives. A balanced approach is needed to address both environmental concerns and the management of our historic wild horses. Collaboration



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among stakeholders is essential to develop sustainable management strategies that minimise the need for shooting programs or population control measures.

In conclusion, I have attached photos and DNA results to support my testimony. Thank you for considering my late submission and request.

Sincerely,

✓ Lynette Sutton Founder,

HOOFS2010 Inc www.hoofs2010.org.au