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The Project Team
Kosciuszko National Park
Wild Horse Heritage Management Plan
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Submission to the Draft Kosciuszko National Park Wild Horse Heritage Management Plan

Healthy Rivers Dubbo is a grass roots community network dedicated to providing a strong voice for our local rivers, aquifers and wetlands in the Murray-Darling Basin for the benefit of wildlife, plants and people. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and acknowledge that this land was never ceded.

Healthy Rivers Dubbo (HRD) is pleased to have the opportunity to provide a written submission to the Draft Kosciuszko National Park Wild Horse Heritage Management Plan.

Water

HRD is very concerned about the health of water ways in NSW.

The alpine springs in Kosciusko National Park is where almost one third of the Murray Darling Basin's annual flows originate from, on average a staggering 9,600 Gigalitres. Kosciusko is where the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Snowy Rivers start. The mossy, boggy alpine soils and vegetation have very high water-holding capacity, which allows the slow discharge of water to keep streams flowing throughout the year.

Feral horses have a detrimental impact on waterways in Kosciusko National Park. They cause soil erosion and compaction of waterways. Their activity causes a decline in water quality, and is altering the hydrology of sphagnum bogs and wetlands.

Australia is the driest inhabited continent on earth. The severe decline in water quality caused by feral horses in Kosciusko must not be allowed to continue.

Language

HRD objects to the calling of feral horses anything other than feral horses. They are not wild horses or brumbies – they are feral pests.

Recommendations

- The significant and rapid reduction of feral horses in Kosciusko National Park.
- The adoption of a horse removal target that is much more ambitious than the suggested target of 3,000 pests remaining by 2027. Interim targets should be included.
- Significantly reduce the proposal to retain feral horses across 220,000 ha. Feral horse zones should not overlap with important environmental assets.
- Ground shooting must be included as a humane and effective method of population control.
- The 2018 Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act must be repealed.
- There must be no further delays in the implementation of the plan to reduce the numbers of feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park.

For further information contact

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