



Australian Brumby Alliance (ABA)

Resource Information Sheet-1.2

www.australianbrumbyalliance.org.au

How the ABA Supports Heritage Brumbies

The ABA was formed to strengthen and unify the efforts of like-minded groups who want to protect and ensure *managed* Brumby populations, which represent an irreplaceable part of our Australian cultural heritage, will continue to live wild in the Australia landscape.

The ABA Mission Statement

The Australian Brumby Alliance (ABA) is concerned with the promotion, protection and humane management of Australian Wild Brumby horses by advocating for common causes of member groups to National and State and Local Governments and to the public.

The objectives of the ABA are to;

- Further the welfare and wellbeing of Australian Brumbies;
- Promote Brumby heritage values to governments, their agents and the community;
- Advocate for non-lethal humane methods of controlling excess Brumby numbers where ever there are reasonable alternatives to pursue;
- Lobby governments for secure long-term land allocations for Brumbies to continue living and evolving in their wild state;
- Facilitate information exchange, networking and support for member *group* activities; and
- Raise funds on a national scale to support Australian Brumby welfare and heritage.
- To seek legislative changes to protect Australian Wild Horses.

The Activities of the ABA focus on strategic issues that are beyond the ability or scope of any single member group to undertake, or that are of significant interest and benefit to the membership as a whole. Such Activities may include but are not exclusive to:

- Providing education, public awareness and an effective information gateway or central point of contact between the general public and Wild Horse interest groups.
- Providing opportunities for networking, information exchange and support for *group* members;
- Keeping current on policy or legislative changes and the effect or influence these changes have on Wild Horse management by Government authorities;
- Lobbying governments;
- Providing assistance to new re-homing groups and supporting state approaches;
- Accessing State, Federal and private funding sources;

A Key role of ABA rehoming member groups involves;

- developing positive effective communication liaison channels with park authorities,
- encouraging park authorities to use non-lethal methods to manage sustainable, viable Brumby populations by using, for example, passive trapping and fertility control,
- encouraging Wild Horses trapped by national park authorities to be offered free to people skilled in gentling and rehoming Brumbies,
- working with relevant national park and RSPCA staff to modify domestic horse codes of practice (COP) , i.e. “horse transport COP” to meet specific Brumby needs, and
- collecting Brumbies passive trapped by park management to gentle and rehome them to a new life with humans in the domestic environment.

ABA member groups lobby Governments, National Park and other Authorities for humane Brumby management and to ensure that viable Brumby populations continue living wild in our Parks, and play a key role in educating the public about Wild Horse values and skills.

The ABA recognizes the need to manage Wild Horses responsibly. To progress this goal, we;

- advocate for a balance between trying to return national parks to pre-settlement days (i.e. removing non-natives) and acknowledging that sustainable Brumby populations introduced around 200 years ago, in fact now help protect our environment, increase its robustness and broaden its bio-diversity exist, and
- to understand *how*, viable, sustainable Brumby populations have evolved with their Australian ecological niche, to now *help sustain* a range of positive benefits, such as;
 - constant supply of fresh green grass that follows the Brumby natural rotational grazing cycles,
 - lowering national park fuel levels,
 - increasing the ability of soil to retain moisture from their manure; and in turn increases Biodiversity - a goal we all share, and
 - understand why many other countries now use wild horse grazing to increase flora and fauna biodiversity [see other ABA web documents and links].

Examples of ABA activities undertaken over the past 2 years, include for example:

- Feedback to the Victorian Alpine Draft Management Plan 2014;
- Considerable and detailed feedback to community consultation forums to the soon to be released draft Kosciuszko National Park Wild Horse management plan in 2016;
- Presenting detailed reports to the NPWS (NSW) Kosciuszko National Park ITRG (Independent Technical Reference Group);
- submitting documents for government state bodies and ongoing lobby work; and
- Other activities arising, such as proposing modifications to the horse transport COP.

Meetings with:

- National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS NSW),
- Parks Victoria,
- National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS Qld); and
- National Parks (WA)

Correspondence and liaison with:

- State Governments in Qld, NSW, Vic, SA and WA.;
- Quarterly newsletters; and
- Providing an informative ABA Website.

Australian Brumby Alliance, 10-January-2016