

Kosciuszko National Park Wild Horse Management Plan Review Update for Stakeholders:

NSW NPWS update to stakeholders on the Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) Wild Horse Management Plan Review process. 4th March, 2016.

Wild Horse Management Plan Review

- Thank you for your ongoing interest in the development of the Draft KNP Wild Horse Management Plan.
- The draft plan is being finalised. During the consultation phase with key stakeholders many issues were brought up which needed to be considered from a range of perspectives. NPWS is taking the time to thoroughly explore these issues to make the draft plan comprehensive and evidence-based. This is to help ensure the best draft is presented for exhibition as soon as possible. At that time everyone will be encouraged to provide further feedback.
- You will be advised when the draft plan is released for exhibition.
- Once released, the draft plan will be on public exhibition for a period of 60 days and will be available to view and download from the NSW Government 'Have Your Say' website.
<https://engage.environment.nsw.gov.au/consult>
- Display hard copies of the draft plan will be available for viewing at local NPWS offices in Tumut, Jindabyne, Khancoban, Queanbeyan, and the OEH Customer Centre in Goulburn St, Sydney, during the exhibition period.
- Public submissions on the draft plan will be able to be lodged electronically or in writing.
- NPWS also plans to hold a series of community 'open house', information and feedback sessions in Tumut, Jindabyne and Queanbeyan during the exhibition period.

Wild Horse Management Program

- During the plan review and draft exhibition process NPWS will continue to implement the adopted 2008 KNP Wild Horse Management Plan. The autumn trapping and removal program in southern KNP will commence via contractor in the next week. If stakeholder groups or individuals are interested in rehoming or domestication opportunities for removed horses please contact the project officer Rob Gibbs (details below).
- There have been a number of recent false and misleading social media reports claiming NPWS is undertaking aerial shooting of wild horses. We reiterate that NPWS has never undertaken aerial shooting of horses within KNP and that aerial shooting and brumby running (or roping) have been discounted as potential horse control methods for the new plan.
- There have also been recent incidents involving threats and intimidation toward NPWS staff and their families on social media in relation to wild horse management issues. We reiterate that such actions will not be tolerated by NPWS and will be referred to the NSW Police. Individuals or groups associated with or condoning such behaviour will be removed from the NPWS stakeholder communications and engagement processes.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns or would like to discuss any matter relating to the KNP Wild Horse Management Plan Review or wild horse management program, please contact Rob Gibbs, Senior Project Officer, Kosciuszko National Park -Wild Horse Management Plan Review Project on ph. 6450 5507 or at rob.gibbs@environment.nsw.gov.au

Thank you for your continued interest and involvement.



Mick Pettitt, Regional Manager NSW NPWS - Southern Ranges Region