



PO Box 3276
Victoria Gardens
Richmond, Vic 3121

Phone : (03) 9428 4709

info@australianbrumbyalliance.org.au
www.australianbrumbyalliance.org.au

ABN : 90784718191

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Bill Jackson, Chief executive Officer,
Parks Victoria, Level 10, 535 Bourke Street,
Melbourne, Vic 3000

Dear Mr Jackson,

I spoke with you at the May-2013 stakeholders meeting held at Barmah National Park when I & Ros Reynolds represented the Victorian Brumby Association (VBA).

At that May-2013 meeting, Ros & I advised that the VBA had recently been told by a senior Parks officer that a decision *had been made* to remove Barmah's Brumbies. At this meeting you and your staff told us *no decision had been made* and that the Barmah stakeholders meetings with Parks would continue as before, to review and make recommendations on options for Barmah Brumby management.

However, at the next stakeholders meeting, Parks Victoria stated a *decision had been made* to remove Barmah's Brumbies, well before the consultative meetings had concluded their review/recommendations on Brumby management.

The apparent turnaround by Parks Victoria seems at odds with the level of trust the community would expect from any meeting process. I gather the steering group's reaction indicated shock and frustration that over 18 months' effort working on the Parks' community consultation had been by-passed and their commitment betrayed.

Government rightly give high priority to consulting with the community, particularly on an emotional topic such as Brumby management. Identifying a range of options requires all parties to establish a level of trust and discuss solutions "in good faith". Brumby management is a sensitive issue for the Australian public that can quickly ignite passion, especially when a process to provide input is viewed as hijacked.

Parks' actions on Barmah Brumby decisions gives the impression that consultation with Parks is hollow and insincere; making it harder for future community dialogue with Parks Victoria to be seen as genuine, open and reflecting 'due process'.

I am keen to hear your response to my concerns, and if possible, assurance that future Community involvement with Parks Victoria can be based on trust; and the communities time and effort to respond be given and received 'in good faith'.

Yours sincerely,

J. Pickering

Jill Pickering, President, Australian Brumby Alliance Inc.
Cc Colleen O'Brien, President, Victorian Brumby Association Inc.