



14<sup>th</sup> October 2019

State wide Feral Horse Program  
Environment and Science Division

To whom it may concern,

### **Feral Horse Rehoming Program – Alpine National Park.**

As you may be aware, the *Protection of the Alpine National Park Feral Horse Strategic Action Plan, 2018-2021* provides strategies to reduce the number of feral horses in the Alpine National Park to help protect native flora, fauna and natural landscapes. The plan identifies trapping and rehoming of captured horses, where this can be achieved humanely, as a priority.

To successfully rehome large numbers of captured horses, people who have the skills and facilities to take ownership of captured horses need to be identified in advance of rehoming focussed trapping commencing.

Parks Victoria is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) for participation in the rehoming of feral horses (sometimes referred to as 'brumbies') captured over the next 2 years (2020 – 2021), where these animals are suitable for rehoming and where access can be safely provided. These horses will generally be captured using trap yards that are established in areas of the Alpine National Park that have all weather access. Parks Victoria will work with people who have been accepted to rehome captured horses to coordinate transport of horses safely and in a timely manner.

### **What do I need to consider in expressing interest in accepting feral horses for rehoming?**

As part of the program a horse accepted for rehoming should be vet checked, vaccinated and microchipped. These costs would be met by the horse interest organisation coordinating rehoming for its members or the new owner.

Parks Victoria will maintain records of each horse captured and which rehoming group or person the horse was accepted by. Personal information will be managed in accordance with the **Privacy Act 1988**.

Parks Victoria staff or agents will assist approved persons to accept horses directly from trap yards or from an established lairage property where such a property is administered by a Registered Rehomer or third party.

It is important that you are aware that if you accept a horse as part of the Parks Victoria rehoming program, you become the owner of that horse and it cannot be returned to Parks Victoria or any Crown Land.

In considering whether you would like to express interest in rehoming captured feral horses please be aware that these animals are not domesticated and as such display the behaviours of a wild animal not conditioned to contact with humans. You will need to be prepared to train and care for the horse/s should you choose to accept ownership of them.

New owners of horses accepted from the capture (trap site) or lairage locations are responsible for complying with animal welfare and transport requirements under law. All costs associated with accepting horses will be the responsibility of the person accepting the horse/s.

Should you be contacted to confirm your participation in the rehoming program, you or your organisation will be asked to consider an agreement with Parks Victoria on the conditions and expectations of participation.

### **Where will I be able to pick a horse up from and what equipment will I need?**

Rehoming opportunities will be provided where all weather access is available, and there is a pre-arranged and registered person available to accept the captured horse/s. The locations will vary, as feral horses are present and require removal in several areas of the Alpine National Park including (but not limited to) Dinner Plain and a large area of the East Alps surrounding the towns of Benambra and Buchan. Horse removal programs are not currently being delivered in the Bogong High Plains, although this may change in the future.

You should consider your ability to travel in a timely manner to such locations to accept a horse for rehoming. Parks Victoria will attempt to minimise the duration which horses are contained in trap yards, on trailers and/or in transport and will only consider delivery of horses to an agreed lairage in reasonable proximity to the capture area. Please identify the areas you can access to accept horses and indicate these areas on the attached EOI form.

You will require your own vehicle and float/suitable trailer to transport horses in accordance with animal welfare legislation. Transport and associated equipment will not be provided, nor will any compensation for wear and tear or fuel costs.

### **How do I get involved and when do I need to respond by?**

If you or your organisation is interested in participating in the feral horse rehoming program, please complete the Expression of Interest form attached to this email and return to Parks Victoria at email [ConservationActionPlanning@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:ConservationActionPlanning@parks.vic.gov.au)

The EOI period will conclude Monday 11th November 2019.

Phone enquiries may be made to the Parks Victoria Information Centre 131963.

Thank you for your interest,

Parks Victoria