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MEDIA RELEASE

What Parks Victoria said about NO aerial-ground shooting in its final plan

“Protection of the Alpine National Park: Feral Horse Strategic Action Plan 2018–2021”



Photo credit: Donna Crebbin

Page 22 (Ground and aerial shooting); To date, ground or aerial shooting has not been used to remove free-ranging feral horses by public land managers in Victoria **due to public** perceptions and **preference for passive techniques such as trapping.**

Page 22 (Ground or Aerial Shooting) **Will not be used** to control free-ranging feral horses. In year three of this plan **an evaluation** of the success or otherwise of trapping & other capture methods will commence. **If results** demonstrate that the use of additional techniques may be required to achieve adequate protection of the environment from feral horses, **further public consultation and dialogue will be undertaken on techniques such as shooting of free-range animals.**

Page 24 (For all horse removal areas, the following methods are repeated for each location);

- Trapping, potentially supplemented by mustering in suitable locations.
- Captured horses will be offered for rehoming if safe & humane transport is possible.

P46 Other methods (NOT PROPOSED IN THE PLAN)

- Shooting - Although **not proposed**, shooting was both mentioned as an effective and humane control, and criticised due to concerns of cruelty and ‘clean shot’ risk.

The above statements by Parks Victoria in summary are;

- *No ground or aerial shooting will be used in their current plan which is to be reviewed during 2021, and importantly*
- *The current plan was finalised following feedback on shooting both for and against, and still rejected by Parks Victoria for the life of this plan.*

22-May-2020 Reply from Parks Victoria “Thank you for your email of 13 May 2020 to **Mr Matthew Jackson**, Parks Victoria Chief Executive regarding management of feral horses in Victorian national parks.....**Aerial shooting is not currently being considered for feral horse control in Victorian parks**

Authorised by Australian Brumby Alliance 9th June 2020 – Contact: 0400-558-772