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MEDIA RELEASE

Parks Victoria's inability to meet Brumby trap quota permitted by ABA Court Case

Parks Victoria CLAIMS that due to a Federal Court injunction "Trapping and rehoming programs were put on hold"¹

- **FACT: Parks Victoria trapped 127 of the 200 limit (VicAlpsEast) agreed under the court injunction, and in the Bogong region (Mt Nelse) trapped 14 of the agreed 15 Mt Nelse Brumbies, a number similar to previous Bogong region removals.**
- **IN short, the ABA court case has not limited Parks Victoria's ability to trap and rehome. Parks Victoria has significantly fallen short of the agreed "up to 200" by 70+ Brumbies. To justify shooting brumbies and changing its own management plan, Parks Victoria now falsely blames the Australian Brumby Alliance (ABA) court case for holding up trapping.**

Parks Victoria CLAIM to have removed (Since February 2020) "more than 1,400 deer from fire impacted areas in East Victoria" in reply to letter sent to Parks Victoria's CEO¹.

- **FACT: 1,400 is around 0.14% of the 750 to 1million plus deer population estimates² for the Victorian Eastern Alpine areas² reported in 2017, and**
- **Since Deer reproduce at twice the rate of Brumbies (Cairns 2019 Bago horse/deer count report), how can Parks Victoria call shooting 1,400 little more than a temporary blip to be instantly replaced! Another example of Parks Victoria's significantly flawed and misleading claims.**

Despite direct approaches by Parks Victoria to horse organisations and community groups to take on rehomed horses, and repeated print media calls for expressions of interest, there has been a very limited response to date¹.

- **FACT: Rehomers requested Parks Victoria to provide a safe environment to collect Alpine Brumbies from, such as provided by NSW National Parks and Wild life Services at Blowering, and**
- **Despite repeated requests, Parks Victoria REFUSED to provide any form of temporary loading facilities considered essential to meet even BASIC OH&S requirements³.**

1 ABA Refutes Parks Victoria's false claims ABA court case held up trapping etc

References

Ref-1: Response to your correspondence regarding feral horse management in Victoria 22 May-20

Dear Sir/Madam, (the following are extracts relevant to the previous page)

- Thank you for your email of 13 May 2020 to Mr Matthew Jackson, Parks Victoria Chief Executive regarding the management of feral horses in Victorian national parks.
- There are increasing pressures on rare and vulnerable species and habitats in the Australian Alps, and Parks Victoria has a legal and moral obligation to protect native species that are at risk of extinction from the impacts of feral horses and other pest animals.
- Parks Victoria suspended most of its alpine horse management operations over the past 18 months **due to a Federal Court injunction**. Trapping and rehoming programs were **put on hold**, limiting the ability to reduce the feral horse population and environmental damage.
- Unburnt areas provide habitat for threatened native species such as alpine plants, alpine tree frogs, alpine spiny crayfish and native ground mammals, and are being severely overgrazed and damaged by introduced pest animals such as deer, pigs and feral horses.
- Since February 2020 the Victorian Government has undertaken bushfire recovery works which have targeted feral goats, pigs, foxes, cats and **removed more than 1,400 deer from fire impacted areas in eastern Victoria**.
- Parks Victoria to commence an additional horse control technique using professional **ground shooters to target free-ranging feral horses in high conservation value sites, particularly in areas impacted by the bushfires in the Alps**.

Ref-2 LINKS/quotes;

- <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-31/deer-hunters-cull-sambar-deer-in-alpine-national-park/8396774> Explosion in population of sambar deer in Victoria's Alpine region is leading concerns about environmental damage in some of the region's most pristine wilderness. It's estimated that anywhere between **750,000 and one million sambar deer are roaming Victoria's high country**.
- <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-07-21/harrierville-project-looks-at-how-to-deal-with-deer/8732414> Deer numbers are increasing **with between 750,000 and 1 million estimated in Victoria's High Country** photo supplied by Parks Victoria
- <https://vnpa.org.au/deer-should-be-listed-as-a-pest/> It's time this problem was squarely faced, and rampant abundance of this highly destructive feral animal brought under control.

Authorised by Jill Pickering, ABA. 8-Jun-20

Re-issues 13-Oct-20

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