

Key messages

Objective/outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To postpone Parks Victoria’s Feral Horse Strategic Action Plan until comprehensive research can verify the exact damage caused specifically by Brumbies to the Bogong High Plains To enable the community to understand why moderate, managed Brumby populations can live in Bogong High Plains and the Eastern Alps To gain sufficient community support to pressure the State Government/Parks Victoria to maintain moderate, managed populations of Brumbies in the wild 		
Primary audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks Victoria, relevant government bodies and local members Local tourist operators in the Bogong High Plains and surrounding region Victorians with an affiliation with, or interest in, wild horses People with an interest in the humane treatment of animals 		
Key message	Key message	Key message	
<p>The Australian Brumby Alliance is asking Parks Victoria to postpone their Feral Horse Strategic Action Plan until comprehensive research can verify the exact impact of Brumbies on Australia’s alpine areas and specifically the Bogong High Plains.</p>	<p>The Alliance supports maintaining a sustainable number of Brumbies in the Bogong High Plains and the Eastern Alps.</p>	<p>Brumbies are an integral part of Australia’s social history and hold important cultural and heritage value. They have also become a significant tourist attraction for the region.</p>	
Supporting information	Supporting information	Supporting information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 84% of Victorians support further research into the impact of other wild animals, extreme weather events or humans on the Bogong High Plains. The research does not satisfactorily distinguish between the impacts caused by other feral animals and Brumby populations. For example evidence shows there are currently between 320-426 deer to every one Brumby in the Alpine National Park and surrounding regions. The Alliance maintains there are positive benefits of maintaining moderate Brumby populations and would like independent research undertaken to verify the impacts of Brumbies both positive and negative. The Alliance is waiting on the Court’s outcome of an interim injunction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 88% of Victorians would support efforts to preserve a small herd of Brumbies living in the wild if there was little evidence of their negative environmental impact on the Bogong High Plains. Brumbies, in managed numbers, can benefit park flora and fauna. The Alliance maintains sustainable Brumby populations increase the ability of soil to retain moisture from their manure; and in turn increases biodiversity. Brumby populations can help attract birds and insects into the park which depend on areas of short, cropped grass, increasing biodiversity Currently there are 120 Brumbies the Bogong High Plains and 2,350 in the Eastern Alps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 82% of Victorians believe that Brumbies are an important part of Australia’s history to preserve. Brumbies bring tourists to Victoria’s alpine regions with many local horse and adventure trail operators dependent on Brumbies remaining in the wild. Brumbies were introduced to Australia in 1788 with the First Fleet. Brumbies were used by settlers in the early 19th century to first cross the Blue Mountains. Ancestors of the modern-day Brumbies were used during the two World Wars. Brumbies have become iconic to Australia since the well-known film The Man From Snowy River celebrated the heritage of brumbies in Australia – they also featured at the opening of the Sydney Olympics attracting people from all over the world. 	