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25-May-2021

To: Mr. Jeff Floyd (Chair), the Board of Parks Victoria

Via: molly.grossi@parks.vic.gov.au and info@parks.vic.gov.au

CC: Mathew Jackson, CEO of Parks Victoria

Via: molly.grossi@parks.vic.gov.au and info@parks.vic.gov.au

Cc: John Bradley, Secretary of DELWP customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au

CC: Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, environment Minister, lily.dambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr. Jeff Floyd,

The Australian Brumby Alliance (ABA) is extremely concerned to hear that the planned rehoming of 100-120 Brumby "removals" from Barmah National Park in this financial year will not go ahead. Instead, with rehoming already waiting to collect and offer the highly valued 100-120 sentient, heritage Barmah Brumbies the chance of a new life, we hear that they are to be shot.

This unjustifiable loss of life is unacceptable, not only does this action not meet community expectations and standards, it also contradicts the evidence provided in the Management Plans as to the reasons why rehoming is the preferred option.

The Barmah Brumby population is managed under Parks Victoria (PV)'s "Protection of Floodplain Marshes Strategic Action Plan 2020–2023" and the Yorta Yorta Corporation Joint Management Plan for Barmah National Park 2020 (YY JMP). PV's sudden move to shoot, rather than rehome is in direct contradiction to PV's own publicised management plan.

The YY JMP talks of the need to "increase community support for rehoming" horses and that Barmah's Brumby removal targets are specified in PV's plan "the Protection of Floodplain Marshes Strategic Action Plan 2020–2023".

PV's plan states that "In the first year of the operational plan, **up to** 100-120 horses will be removed from the (Barmah) park" and that "Horses will only be trapped when appropriate rehoming recipients have been secured prior to any trapping activities".

In a letter to the Barmah Brumby Preservation Group (BBPG) 17-May-2021, acknowledging that the group has provided rehoming options for 30-90 horses, PV asked when works according to veterinary advice would be completed so PV "can arrange the rehoming with (BBPG)" with contractors.

In their response to PV, BBPG stated “Let's get this rehoming mission commenced immediately. There is no need to shoot any horses (in reference to PV's 17-May-2021 letter stating “shooting will be one of the techniques we use to reduce horse numbers” in the first year).

The ABA URGENTLY seeks PV to confirm whether or not it intends to kill up to 120 Brumbies by 30-June-2021.

If PV does intend shooting the Brumbies, after claiming intent to maximise rehoming, it will instead demonstrate an horrific breach of trust, and flagrant disregard for the value many within the Victorian community, and across Australia, place on their heritage Brumbies.

Further, if PV now takes this brutal course of action and rejects rehomer offers, such a heavy-handed change of plan will most certainly inflame tax payers over the completely unnecessary and senseless loss of healthy Brumbies, and it will also dissolve the hopes of those, who in good faith, have worked for, and now expect, to save and rehome Brumbies.

PV's plan clearly states

- A seasonal operational plan will be developed to define the settings for lethal control, and how shooting will be carried out.
- Keep the community and stakeholders informed of actions and progress.
- Actively develop partnerships and programs to maximise rehoming capacity.

In summary, please URGENTLY respond by 1-June-21, or earlier, to;

1. State whether PV intends to kill up to 120 Barmah Brumbies by 30-June-2021.
2. If so, then what is PV's official reason for changing to a lethal rather than rehoming solution?
3. Provide copies of “seasonal operational plans” developed to “define the settings for lethal control, and how shooting will be carried out”.
4. Provide copies of “actions and progress” PV committed to provide to community and stakeholders to keep them informed on actions and progress to date.
5. Provide information on actions to “actively develop partnerships and programs to maximise rehoming capacity”.

The Australian Brumby Alliance (ABA) Inc. Advocates for the recognition, management, preservation and welfare of Australian Wild Horses and for the retention of sustainable Brumby populations in the heritage areas they have evolved in over the past 150-200 years.

I am available to respond to questions on 0400-558-772, or pickjill@hotmail.com

Yours sincerely



President,
Australian Brumby Alliance Inc.