

Attachment 1: Press release to be distributed 19th June 2024

PRESS RELEASE 19/6/2024

Australia can do better to humanely manage its wild heritage horses

A group of experienced Brumby advocates, rehomers and trainers have come together to propose a solution to managing the welfare of Brumbies across Australia and are asking for the Government to support the initiative.

The Australian Brumby Management Organisation (ABMO) has been formed to provide a sustainable approach to a decades long issue.

A proposal has been sent to the State and National Ministers of the Environment and Water, Directors of the National Parks and Wildlife Services and CEOs of the RSPCA with a view to building a solution that shifts the accountability for the Brumbies to the people.

The ABMO's initial focus will be on the Brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park. It will be vital to access the horses for a check of welfare and the numbers remaining after the recent aerial and ground culling activities.

Parks NSW have already spent significantly on infrastructure with trapping sites, holding yards at Blowering, and forming and training a Wild Horse Management team. We propose to complement this infrastructure by managing the horses ongoing needs and implementing better practices in the process.

The ABMO's main goal is to ensure that the 3,000 horses that the Government has committed to leaving in the relevant zones in the Park are well managed through non-lethal measures.

The ABMO will work with recognised rehomers and sanctuaries *nationally* to help them access funds to continue to provide support for Brumbies that need to come out of the Park. The ABMO will also look at local and international models for successful management of Brumby welfare and come together as a knowledge group to offer mentoring to those new to helping Brumbies.

The organisation will also approach local horsemen and horsewomen with a vast knowledge of the herds, their behaviours and their habitat, to find better ways of working with these people and involving them in the plan of management, and its implementation.

There are years of experience at our fingertips that are not learned from – now is the time to reach out for a better way.

The Government has willingly funded the demise of these horses, now we would like to see them commit to their promise to maintain a herd of 3000 in the retention areas of the Park.

Now is the time for them to support the people who want to be accountable for the outcomes for our Brumbies.

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