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8 April 2011

Hon Kate Jones MP  
Minister for Environment and Resource Management  
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001  
[derm@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:derm@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

Dear Ms Jones,

The Brisbane Courier mail published an article 1-Apr-11 on your plans to shoot 400 wild horses in Carnarvon Nation Park, and that two unnamed contractors had previously declined to round up wild horses in Carnarvon due to the difficult terrain.

The *Australian Brumby Alliance Inc. (ABA)* is extremely concerned that the QLD Government continues to rely on aerial shooting to control wild horse numbers when alternative, more humane methods exist such as trapping to rehome wild horses and fertility control which has great potential to become a humane, viable long term option once trials are completed to effectively apply vaccines to the complex Australian environment.

The ABA acknowledges any overabundant species need to be managed responsibly to maintain sustainable populations. RSPCA Qld has said it will NOT condone this cull as Queensland Parks Wildlife Service (QPWS) "have made no serious attempt to investigate alternative management practices".

Your letter to Mr Cripps, Member for Hinchinbrook in October 2010 states **"QPWS will explore and fully exhaust all prudent and feasible options to manage the impacts of feral horses on its estate, including options of mustering"**. This does not appear to have occurred in the present situation. The mustering contractors mentioned in the courier mail declined interest in 2009. I understand no further calls for tenders to muster or trap horses in Carnarvon have occurred, nor are any currently being considered by QPWS.

In this instance the cull of 400 wild horses has been planned with no option given for someone to apply to trap and remove horses. You appear to have gone against your response to Mr Cripps, since options to "fully exhaust all prudent and feasible options" have not occurred.

The ABA calls on your Government to ensure all alternative more humane options are considered. Mark Hoffman, Queensland resident and his father are experienced in wild horse behaviours and Mark's father knows the specific area of Carnarvon you plan to aerial shoot 400 horses in May 2011. Mark has requested permission to trap & remove horses from this area, but instead of QPWS exploring all options, Mark is being prevented from applying his alternative, more humane and less costly method of managing your horse population.

On another topic, the ABA proposes that any long term management plans must harness fertility control. The ability to conduct several trials exists now, but we need funds. The ABA is working with the Charles Sturt University (NSW) on a Brumby manure testing pilot. Once manure trials are proven accurate two fertility control trials (one using Spay Vac and the other using GonaCon Vaccines) will be conducted under the overall supervision of a senior Canberra Scientist. These two trials are estimated to cost \$100,000.

The ABA request that the Queensland Government;

- Abandon this plan to shoot 400 Carnarvon horses until QPWS has had formal discussion with Mark Hoffman and provided Mark with appropriate tendering opportunities to present his proposal and have it considered.
- That money allocated to the aerial shoot be re-channelled to support Trap and Rehoming programs and fertility control trials such as outlined above.

The ABA urges the Queensland Governments to take up these initiatives.

The Heritage Brumby is a major part of our cultural heritage, they served humanity well, and have co-existed in the Australian environment for over 200 years - They deserve to have government support for the most humane control method long term.

The Qld governments now has this opportunity to demonstrate leadership by progressing trap & rehoming programs and wild horse fertility control as a humane long term solution for both QLD and Australian Wild Horses.

I would appreciate your support and consideration of my two requests as soon as possible. Feel free to contact me on (03) 9428-4709 or [pickjill@hotmail.com](mailto:pickjill@hotmail.com)

Yours sincerely,

*Jill Pickering* (Emailed Friday 8 April 2011 to [derm@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:derm@ministerial.qld.gov.au))

**Jill Pickering,  
President, Australian Brumby Association**