



Premier of Queensland

For reply please quote: ERP/HM – TF/10/7317 – Doc/10/35651

07 APR 2010

Ms Brigitte Bardot
President
Fondation Brigitte Bardot
28, rue Vineuse
75116 PARIS
FRANCE

Thank you for your fax of 18 March 2010 concerning the management of feral horses in Carnarvon National Park.

At over 400 000 individuals, Australia has the largest feral horse population of any nation in the world. Over 100 000 of these are estimated to live in Queensland. Unfortunately, at some locations like Carnarvon, their numbers have grown to the point where they are seriously damaging the natural habitat for native animals — many of which are endangered. The horses are also posing a public safety risk.

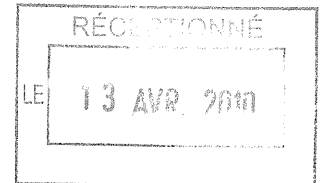
In these places, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) must act to reduce numbers of horses to a manageable level to prevent irreversible damage.

The QPWS implements a plan for the management of feral horses and other pest animal species that provides for a structured approach to effectively control feral horse numbers, having regard for conservation and economic values. Mustering and trapping are the preferred methods of removal and are used wherever and whenever practicable.

However, in remote areas of the national park, this is not always possible. The Australian national model codes of practice and standard operating procedures for the humane control of feral horses are strictly adhered to in control programs. These codes and procedures have been developed in close consultation with animal welfare groups such as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

My Government has also collaborated in research into non-lethal control techniques for use in areas where mustering is impossible. Unfortunately, no practical method has been found to date.

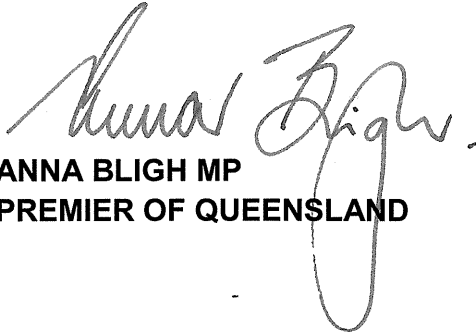
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Further information on the Carnarvon National Park Management Plan can be found at the website <http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks/carnarvon-gorge/index.html>.

Again, thank you for bringing your views to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Bligh', with a large, stylized flourish extending downwards from the end of the signature.

**ANNA BLIGH MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND**