

PRESS RELEASE

The Australian Brumby Alliance (Inc)

*A National Body for the Recognition, Management, Preservation and Welfare of
Australian Wild Horses (Brumbies) ABN : A0052513M*

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The Australian Brumby Alliance Inc (ABA), the national umbrella group for a growing number of the biggest wild horse rescue groups in Australia and New Zealand, has raised serious concerns regarding the Queensland Government's recent announcement to aerial shoot a further 400 wild horses in Carnarvon Nation Park in the near future.

ABA President Jill Pickering voiced her ongoing frustration at the Queensland Government's continued reliance on aerial shooting to control wild horse numbers when alternative, more humane methods such as trapping to rehome wild horses and fertility control trials have been not only recommended but proven successful in many areas both within Australia and overseas in recent years.

Ms Pickering is also extremely disappointed that Kate Jones, the Minister for Environment and Resource Management, after assuring a local member in October 2010 (after the last devastating cull in Carnarvon), that; *"Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service {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"*, no further options have in fact been explored since 2009 when two musters were contacted during that year to remove Brumbies. QPWS have not called for tenders since 2009 and say they have no plans to do so at present.

While the ABA acknowledges any overabundant species need to be managed responsibly to maintain sustainable populations, Jill Pickering noted that even RSPCA Qld has said it will not condone a further proposed cull as Queensland Parks Wildlife Service (QPWS) "have made no serious attempt to investigate alternative management practices."

The ABA has called on the Minister and the Queensland Government to ensure all alternative humane options are considered. Mark Hoffman, a Queensland resident and his father, both experienced in wild horse behaviour and understand the complexities of the area being targeted, have requested permission to trap & remove horses from this area, but instead of QPWS exploring all options, Mark appears to be being prevented from applying his alternative, more humane and less costly method of managing the area's wild horse population.

The ABA has further requested that the Queensland Government abandon the plan to shoot 400 Carnarvon horses until QPWS has had formal discussion with Mark Hoffman and other potential wild horse rescue personnel, and provided appropriate tendering opportunities for consideration. Jill Pickering noted that the money allocated to the aerial shoot should be reallocated to support the far more humane trapping and rehoming programs, as well as ongoing fertility control trials which the ABA believe may well be the longer term management solution for wild horse populations around the world.