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Victorian Brumbies to be shot early June 2022

The Australian Brumby Alliance Inc. (ABA) strongly objects to Parks Victoria (PV) calling for tender to shoot Brumbies in the Vic Alps, Bogong High Plains and Barmah national parks¹ while **there are still rehomingers with space waiting to receive these sentient, wild horses - at this very moment,**

PV's statement of obligations² explains that "effective communication with the community and key stakeholders is critical to the successful development **and delivery** of major policies. This is best practice. Poor practice is killing healthy horses when rehoming space exists, thus denying them any domestic future; **until** PV call meeting of relevant stakeholders to see **how rehoming can resume.**

Parks Victoria's current wild Horse management plans³ include;

- **Enhancing** opportunities for wild horses to be rehomed,
- horse population will be **surveyed annually between May & August** each year,
- Shooting operations will be **overseen** by expert equine veterinarians, and
- Monitoring plan effectiveness to see IF these strategies are having a positive impact to determine any change over time in association with management carried out.

PV claim to prioritise rehoming, but instead have suddenly stopped rehoming to begin shooting. The current plan again falsely claims that *low densities of horses can cause substantial damage in a short time (Tolsma & Shannon 2018)*⁴, despite the ABA court cross examination evidence that four study field site notes that stated Deer **only** damage were **changed** to Horse **only** damage in the report.

Furthermore, the maximum impact increase in 10 years was just **2%** and a few remaining sites up to **5%** across an area where despite PV conducting two Deer shoot programs in the same horse study area at that time, PV told the scientist to record horse – NOT deer evidence.

The ABA strongly urges Parks Victoria to NOT SHOOT until AFTER;

- Rehoming program are immediately **reinstated**, further EOI's called for if needed, in order to meet PV's stated intent to maximise wild horse rehoming,
- Annual E.Alps, Bogong and Barmah horse counts are conducted and results made public.
- Monitoring results on any positive or negative impact on environmental health has occurred after two years of shooting horses, deer, pigs and goats etc.

For inquiries contact: Jill Pickering (ABA President) 0400-558-772 pickjill@hotmail.com or Justine Curatolo (ABA Vice President) 0411-494-987 justine_curatolo@hotmail.com

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1 Media release Parks Victoria stop rehoming – now shooting Brumbies as rehomingers wait for horses

Media references

1. Weekly Times Friday 13th May 2022 “Revealed: Feral horses to be shot in secret cull”
2. PV statement of obligations (2018)
<http://www.gazette.vic.gov.au/gazette/Gazettes2021/GG2021S533.pdf>
3. Parks Victoria current Barmah and Alpine management plans (see PV website)..
4. Tolsma and Shannon (2018) is a report to Parks Victoria