



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

Sunday, 16 June 2013

EXAMINATION OF KOSCIUSZKO HORSE MANAGEMENT

Environment Minister Robyn Parker today announced that the National Parks and Wildlife Service will conduct an examination of horse controls in Kosciuszko National Park.

Ms Parker said the current Kosciuszko National Park horse management plan was drafted in 2008 and had not kept pace with horse breeding rates.

“National parks staff have worked hard to control horses in Kosciuszko and are disappointed to find increasing populations in the park,” Ms Parker said.

“Humane treatment of horses will remain a key component of control measures but national parks staff are concerned at the damage horses are causing to high country waterways and ecosystems.

“The National Parks and Wildlife Service will therefore commence an examination of the Kosciuszko National Park horse management plan.”

The last aerial survey of the Australian Alps which includes Kosciuszko National Park conducted in 2009, estimated the horse population at 7,679, compared to 2,369 in 2003.

“The methodology used in horse surveys across the Alps is internationally recognised best practice; however the next survey will take in a much greater area to increase the level of precision in estimating horse numbers.

“Community and stakeholder consultation will be critical to this review.

“The analysis will also examine control methods in remote locations of the park, where vehicle access is limited.

“Brumbies are a part of Australian settler heritage; however we also need to carefully manage introduced species that threaten our unique high country environment.

“The best and most recent research, collected using the most rigorous methodology, will underpin future policy.”