

[REDACTED]  
RSPCA NSW

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing in relation to the RSPCA (NSW) review of the preliminary program for the aerial shooting of horses in Kosciuszko National Park. This program was conducted in accordance with the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Management Plan under the *Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018*.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is committed to ensuring all operations for the control of horses are conducted in accordance with the highest animal welfare standards.

To assist us in meeting this objective, NPWS would value your feedback and advice as follows:

1. Advice on whether the RSPCA (NSW) was able to adequately and independently observe the preliminary program.
2. Advice on (a) whether the Standard Operating Procedure for the preliminary program is consistent with best practice in terms of animal welfare; and (b) whether the RSPCA (NSW) observed any departures from the Standard Operating Procedure during the conduct of the preliminary program.
3. Advice on whether the RSPCA (NSW) observed any non-compliance with the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*.
4. Any other advice or recommendations in relation to future aerial control operations.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
30.11.2023

**1 December 2023**

[REDACTED]  
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Dear [REDACTED]

I am responding to your letter regarding observations made by RSPCA NSW [REDACTED] [REDACTED] during the preliminary program for the aerial shooting of horses in Kosciuszko National Park, as conducted by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in accordance with the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Management Plan under the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act (2018).

In response to your questions, please see the following:

- 1. Advise whether the RSPCA NSW was able to adequately and independently observe the preliminary program.**

RSPCA NSW [REDACTED] was able to independently observe the preliminary program for the aerial shooting of horses in Kosciuszko National Park.

- 2. Advise**
  - a. whether the Standard Operating Procedure for the preliminary program is consistent with best practice; and**

RSPCA NSW [REDACTED] observed the Standard Operating Procedures used by NPWS for the preliminary program of aerial shooting of horses in Kosciuszko National Park. In terms of best practice, RSPCA NSW advises that any operations ought to continue in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures established by NPWS.

- b. whether the RSPCA NSW observed any departures from the Standard Operating Procedure during the conduct of the preliminary program.**

RSPCA NSW [REDACTED] did not observe any departures from the Standard Operating Procedures during the preliminary program for the aerial shooting of horses in Kosciuszko National Park during the two days this activity took place.

3. ***Advise whether the RSPCA NSW observed any non-compliance with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.***

RSPCA NSW [REDACTED] did not observe any non-compliance with the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1979)* during the preliminary program for the aerial shooting of horses in Kosciuszko National Park during the two days this activity took place.

4. ***Provide any other advice or recommendations in relation to future aerial control operations.***

RSPCA NSW [REDACTED] conducted first hand observations of the aerial control operations as described above and as a result has no further advice or recommendations at this time.

Please do not hesitate to ask if we can further assist you and your team.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]