



Meeting Summary

Wild Horse Community Advisory Panel

Wednesday 11 June 2025

The Wild Horse Community Advisory Panel was formed under the *Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018*. The panel provides advice to the Minister for the Environment or the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) on matters relating to the identification of the heritage value, and the management of, sustainable wild horse populations within Kosciuszko National Park.

The panel met at Queanbeyan, with seven of the eight appointed members present.

Standing items

The updated Panel Terms of Reference was endorsed by members and signed by the Chair.

The terms of the newest members expire on 31 October 2025. Appointments will be discussed by members, the Chair and NPWS for decision by the Minister.

The Panel will consider providing advice on the timing and process for review of the *Kosciuszko National Park Wild Horse Heritage Management Plan*. The feasibility of a reproductive control trial in the park and impact monitoring are topics for discussion when considering the plan's review.

NPWS update

NPWS provided a program update since the March 2025 meeting. Topics of discussion included:

- progress on the study into the feasibility of a reproductive control trial
- petition to the Legislative Assembly to repeal the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act
- Leadbeater's possum sighting.

NPWS presentations

NPWS provided a presentation on the values and threats to the park. Discussion centred on the progress of managing threats, the impacts of feral herbivores post-fire and shifts in park visitation and visitor values.

2024 Population survey

NPWS reported on the thermal camera technology survey. The survey methodology and findings were independently peer-reviewed and endorsed. The 2025 survey timing has been planned.

2025 Management program

Annual aerial control operations targeting feral animals across the park commenced in June, with horses in retention areas excluded from control activities

Four approved rehoming providers have successfully rehomed approximately 100 wild horses, with passive trapping and rehoming continuing subject to weather conditions

Infrastructure improvements include new roofing for temporary holding facilities

Upcoming activities

A site visit to the northern section of the park is scheduled for December 2025, with the scheduled regular meeting to occur afterwards.