

# SNOWY MOUNTAINS BUSH USERS GROUP INC. ("SMBUG")

## *Protecting our Mountain Heritage*

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**EDITOR- TUMUT and ADELONG TIMES**

### ***"PROTECT THE SNOWY BRUMBY"***

As a follow on to my Letter to the Editor published in your paper on Friday 23 November 2007, regarding the KNP Horse Management Plan Draft, I would like to inform your readers that SMBUG is of the firm view that-

- The Snowy Brumby has at least equal cultural heritage value as the historic pastoral, mining and ski huts, gold and mining sites, gravesites, stock routes, wagon and bridle tracks and all other activities in the Snowy Mountains of our pioneering forefathers.
- The current Brumby numbers do not warrant the culling program that the KNP Horse Management Plan Draft promotes. Based on NPWS figures there is one Brumby per 400 hectares (1,000 acres). No one could possibly argue that KNP is overstocked. NPWS appear to have grossly overstated the Brumby population increase rate at between 8 - 20% pa. Again based on their figures in the northern end of KNP there were approx. 1600 Brumbies in 2002. This Plan Draft states 1120 in 2005 (latest available figures). Where have they gone?

Clearly, as a first step the Australian public must be given the opportunity to decide whether or not they wish the heritage value of the Snowy Brumby to be recognised and protected.

NPWS, the NSW State and the Federal Governments should set the mechanisms in place to facilitate this public debate. The Snowy Brumby has legendary and iconic status not only in our Australian eyes but also in the eyes of the world.

If the decision reached favours protection of the Snowy Brumby then KNP should be its logical home.

At present there is "fear and anxiety" amongst our members, supporters and the general public. This stems from recent NPWS Horse Management Plans adopted for other national parks within NSW that clearly state the objective is to achieve zero horse numbers within five years. The current action of Queensland to slaughter 10,000 brumbies by aerial shooting and the ongoing shooting in ACT together with Victoria's removal plan for their brumbies does not engender any confidence that the brumby is safe.

Formal recognition and protection of the Snowy Brumby would remove the major concern that the ultimate aim of NPWS is to eradicate the brumby from KNP

SMBUG fully understands that if the brumbies breed up to un-sustainable numbers in KNP then proactive management measures would be necessary.

We are confident that once the Snowy Brumby was formally recognised and protected and maximum/minimum sustainable numbers agreed NPWS could expect local community endorsement and support with management programs. Such co-operation has been achieved in the national parks of at least ten western states of the United States where their mustang (wild horse) roams free on Bureau of Land Management managed lands.

In the meantime SMBUG appeals to NPWS to stop, step back and listen to the people.

SMBUG does not support the KNP Horse Management Plan Draft as presented by NPWS.

We encourage the public to attend the NPWS information session on Tuesday, 4 December 2007 at the CWA Hall, Tumut anytime between 3-30pm- 6.30pm and register their NO vote.

For more information please contact-  
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