



[m.lamb@mda.asn.au](mailto:m.lamb@mda.asn.au)  
[www.mda.asn.au](http://www.mda.asn.au)  
T (03) 5480 3805  
ABN: 64 636 490 493

553 Kiewa Street  
P.O. Box 323  
Albury NSW 2640

P.O. Box 1268  
Echuca VIC 3564

25<sup>th</sup> October 2023

The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP  
Minister for the Environment and Water  
(02) 6277 4404  
[Minister.plibersek@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:Minister.plibersek@dcceew.gov.au)

### ***Reduction of Feral Animal Populations***

Dear Minister Plibersek,

On behalf of the Murray Darling Association (MDA), I am writing to commend that the Federal Government repeal the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018, or make such amendments that would allow a reduction in the number of feral horses in the national parks, and that the Federal Government take such steps as necessary to reduce the number of feral animals, including, but not limited to, deer and horses, as quickly as possible.

I would like to again thank you for your attendance and presentation to, as well as stakeholder engagement during the 79<sup>th</sup> National Conference in the Rural City of Murray Bridge, September 2023. The MDA greatly values the efforts made by yourself to engage with our members and share your keen insight, and perspective.

At our 79<sup>th</sup> National Conference earlier this year, our membership raised concerns that the feral horse population in Kosciuszko National Park had increased to almost 19,000 in Spring 2022 as a result of high rainfall and abundant feed and there has been a similar increase in the population of deer.

Members have noted grazing pressure and damage caused by their hooves threatening the survival of alpine plants and animals, including endangered species such as the mountain pygmy possum, mountain skink and corroboree frog, as well as the sphagnum moss and ferns at the headwaters of the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers.

As the Federal Minister for the Environment and Water, could you please advise what intentions the Federal Government has to repeal the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018, or make such amendments that would allow a reduction in the number of feral horses in the national parks, and that the Federal Government take such steps as necessary to reduce the number of feral animals?



Please don't hesitate to contact myself or our National President, Cr David Thurley should you wish to discuss the reduction of feral animal populations, or require further information.

Yours faithfully,

*Mark D. Lamb*

Mark D. Lamb  
Chief Executive Officer  
Murray Darling Association Inc.  
[0490 143 214](tel:0490143214)  
[m.lamb@mda.asn.au](mailto:m.lamb@mda.asn.au)

