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25th October 2023

The Hon Penny Sharpe, MLC
Minister for Climate Change
Minister for Energy
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Heritage
02 7225 6020
office@sharpeminister.nsw.gov.au

Reduction of Feral Animal Populations

Dear Minister Sharpe

On behalf of the Murray Darling Association (MDA), I am writing to commend that the NSW 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 NSW 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.

As you may recall, the Murray Darling Association (MDA) is a membership-based peak representative organisation representing local government and the communities we serve across the Murray-Darling Basin since 1944, acknowledging the importance of local governments across the Basin, and the valuable contribution they can make in the formulation of decisions and policy.

Built on a strong foundation of good governance, the MDA works with and for member councils in collaboration with state-based local government associations, regional organisations of councils, joint organisations, and other local government affiliations to provide its members with the means, and opportunity, to actively participate in informing water, and other Basin resource, policy.

At our 79th 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 NSW Minister for the Environment, could you please advise what intentions the NSW 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 NSW 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
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