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25th October 2023

The Hon Steve Dimopoulos MP
Minister for Environment
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events
Minister for Outdoor Recreation
Member for Oakleigh
03 8624 3101
Steve.dimopoulos@parliament.vic.gov.au

Reduction of Feral Animal Populations

Dear Minister Dimopoulos,

On behalf of the Murray Darling Association (MDA), I am writing to commend that the Victorian Government make amendments to current legislation that would allow a reduction in the number of feral horses in Victorian national parks, and that the Victorian 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.

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.

Such impacts on native flora and fauna by growing feral animal populations is not restricted to the Kosciuszko National Park, with large feral animal populations present in National Parks including the Barmah National Park in Victoria.

As the Victorian Minister for Environment, could you please advise what intentions the Victorian Government has to make amendments to current legislation that would allow a reduction in the number of feral horses in the national parks, and that the Victorian 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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