



From: POV eSubmission Form <ecosystems@parliament.vic.gov.au>
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Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Categories: Submissions

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Ms Judy Medway



Judy Medway



SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I am submitting my views that Wild Horses (brumbies) support the eco system as they are nomadic herbivores. They enrich their local environment and promote biodiversity with their unique digestive systems which allows for regeneration of seeds and grasses, as well as their selective grazing patterns which creates habitats for bugs and small birds.

Nearly 3 billion animals were killed across Australia in the 2019/20 bushfires. One and a half million acres were burnt across Victoria, sadly the brumby population was significantly reduced from the bush fires. An accurate count is required of the brumby population to know the population density of brumbies for a better management plan to address any environmental concerns for those areas.

The review of FED EPBC Act found protective legislation ineffective.

Victorian Laws for example Parks Victoria were found by the Auditor General to fail and not carry out their obligations to protect Ramsay Wetlands.

The brumbies are heritage animals that have lived free roaming for nearly 200 years. They contribute positively to support the ecosystem of their local environment. They are not predators and coexist peacefully with native animals. Brumbies as herbivores help to fertilise the soil, regenerating seeds and grasses enriching the soil to the benefit of all animals living in the area.

The brumbies require heritage legislation as their NSW brumbies have obtained. Some of the Victorian brumbies have some of the oldest purest bloodlines in the world of colonial horses. The brumbies have had a significant part in the building of modern Australia from the initial colonial days, through Federation, World Wars, assisting in agriculture and industry. They require acknowledgement of their heritage value and listing.

There have been many international programs using wild horses successfully to create biodiversity. Rewilding in Europe, grazelife and conservation grazing are successfully used in Europe to improve soil quality and biodiversity to the benefit of all wild life environments and animals.

The integration of government levels, integrated response, legislation, funding and evidence are required to move forward with positive actions that are productive supporting the welfare of all concerned. The European model Grazelife has government funding, works with the support of communities and evidence to successfully restore habitat using wild herbivores. In opposition the Kakadu National Park buffalo experience of removing and

eradicating wild exotic herbivores caused a reduction in environmental quality and proved harmful to the environment, not restoring the habitat but depleting it.

Another issues of the advantages of brumbies is the ecotourism possibilities connecting people with the environment, increasing their awareness of natural landscapes, animals and nature. Brumbies are a global attraction with followers domestically and internationally. Ecotourism provides employment, attracts government and industry funding in regional communities that are in need of local employment and financial growth. Ecotourism assist hospitality, accommodation, retail, real estate, building and many of domains improving smaller regional areas financially.

In the USA government programs such as BLM, corrections and industry provide a work force that assist in rehabilitation for people while working to build and maintain programs that improve habitat regeneration, biodiversity and wild and natural animal cohabitation.

The brumbies have resided free roaming for nearly 200 years successfully assisting in regeneration of natural seeds and grasses. The brumby rescues, sanctuaries work to support the continuance of the brumby legacy and maintain the brumby bloodlines that require natural selection without man-interference. They rescue trapped brumbies saving them from slaughter and killing by Victoria Parks. The brumby rescues, rehomes and sanctuaries are already established industries that provide employment for many. They use voluntary labour, often rely on donations with public support and fundraising. Brumby rescues and sanctuaries are dedicated to saving brumbies, many are registered charities established for over 10 years. Government funding to these organisation in the form of grants, incentives, land release for sanctuaries would ensure brumbies were not removed from the wild and continued to provide their unique contribution of assisting with biodiversity and regeneration of natural habitats supporting all who reside there.

Yours sincerely
Judy Medway

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File1:

File2:

File3: