

Rebecca Vassarotti MLA
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Heritage
Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services
Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction

Member for Kurrajong

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
Environment and Communications References Committee
Inquiry into the impacts and management of feral horses in the Australian Alps

SENATOR SARAH HANSON-YOUNG - Asked the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Please provide the following totals and subtotals relating to the management of feral horses for each financial year (or calendar year) from 2018-19 to now:
- a. Total number of feral horses trapped
 - i. Total number of feral horses rehomed after trapping
 - ii. Total number of feral horses sent to a knackery after trapping
 - b. Total number of feral horses shot
 - i. Total number of feral horses ground shot
 - ii. Total number of feral horses aerial shot
 - c. Total number of feral horses managed using other methods, e.g. fertility control etc.

MS VASSAROTTI MLA - The answer to the Senator's question is as follows:

Feral Horses are controlled in accordance with the *ACT Namadgi National Park Feral Horse Management Plan 2020*.

Feral horses are regularly monitored in Namadgi. Since 2021, this has been on a quarterly basis using a thermal camera from a helicopter. Rangers also use trail cameras, manure and other horse sign monitoring indicators to monitor horse activity.

In response to your specific questions:

(1)

- a. No trapping of feral horses has occurred in the ACT since 2018. Trapping is not considered an effective method of control particularly for the very low occurrences of feral horses in the ACT. A trap yard did exist previously at the Mt Bimberi area but is no longer in place.
- b. Two feral horses have been shot.
 - i. One feral horse was ground shot in 2021 at the eastern side of Namadgi in the Clear Range area.
 - ii. One feral horse was shot during September 2021 as part of the thermal assisted aerial control program in the Bimberi Range area.
- c. No other feral horses have been controlled using any other method in the ACT since 2018.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Rebecca Vassarotti MLA
Minister for the Environment

Date: 15/9/2023