



John Barilaro

Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional NSW
Minister for Small Business
Minister for Skills

Gabrielle Upton

Minister for the Environment

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 7 June 2018

ICONIC BRUMBIES BILL PASSES NSW STATE PARLIAMENT

NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro and Minister for the Environment Gabrielle Upton today announced the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Bill 2018 has passed NSW State Parliament.

Mr Barilaro said he is thrilled that the NSW Government has officially recognised the heritage value and cultural significance of the Snowy Mountains brumby.

“This will finally end years of speculation around the lethal culling of one of Australia’s national icons,” Mr Barilaro said.

“This Bill is about finding a balance to manage sensitive areas of the Kosciuszko National Park, whilst managing the population of brumbies, through humane population control methods.

“I have always opposed cruel forms of culling and have advocated for non-lethal ways of managing brumby numbers.

“If brumbies are found in highly-sensitive alpine areas of Kosciuszko National Park, resources will be allocated towards relocation, followed by re-homing, should population numbers grow too high.

The passing of the ‘Brumbies Bill’ means that the Minister for the Environment can get on with preparing a heritage management plan for the brumby, which will identify sensitive areas within the Kosciuszko National Park where humane population control methods will be implemented.

Ms Upton said the bill is a win for the environment and it is a win for the area’s heritage.

“Australia’s alpine region is an iconic place that has international significance,” she said.

“It contains the headwaters of the Snowy, the Murray and the Murrumbidgee Rivers and the NSW Government is determined to protect and preserve the environment of the national park for future generations.

“This legislation is doing things that everyone has failed to do until now.

“We are providing a workable framework that creates a proper balance between a sustainable population of brumbies and the protection of Kosciuszko National Park’s unique environment.

“Humanely removing brumbies from the national park is in line with community expectations and is consistent with preserving the natural environment,” she said.

Mr Barilaro said he's pleased that the Victorian Government has proposed the same approach to manage the brumby population with trapping, relocating and rehoming as their primary control method.

"It is disappointing however, that Labor has announced that it will oppose this Bill and has instead, presented its own plan on managing brumbies, which essentially copies the plan put forward by the NSW Government," Mr Barilaro said.

"Labor claims it wants to maintain a population of brumbies in less sensitive areas of the Park - which is exactly what our bill proposes.

"Labor agrees with our plan to maintain the ban on aerial culling - which is particularly pleasing given it was Labor who commissioned the Guy Fawkes aerial slaughter of brumbies in 2000," he said.

MEDIA: Georgina Kentwell | Deputy Premier | 0427 206 308
Alan Gale | Minister Upton | 0418 892 778