

NSW election scorecard: Where does Labor stand on protecting Kosciuszko National Park from feral horses.

Reclaim Kosci summary of party policies relevant to addressing feral horse impacts in Kosciuszko National Park.

Summary of NSW Labor's position

- Horse reduction 'guided' by 2016 horse plan.
- Repeal horse protection law.
- Repair horse damage.
- Aerial shooting ruled out, support for other humane control options unclear.

Policy statement on feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park

Provided to the Invasive Species Council on 11 March 2019 by Liam Caulfield, Office of Penny Sharpe, Deputy Leader of the NSW Labor Party, Member of the Legislative Council, Shadow Minister for the Environment and Heritage, and Shadow Minister for Trade.

As flagged in Labor's six-point plan, horse management and control will be guided by the extensive work that produced the 2016 Draft Wild Horse Management Plan, as well as a scientific assessment and count of the horse population, increased resources for humane population control methods such as fertility control and rehoming outside of the national park, and dedicated works to repair the mountain catchments.

Labor's six-point plan to save Kosciuszko National Park and manage the wild horse population

Provided to the Invasive Species Council on 17 February 2019 by Bryce Wilson, Labor candidate for Monaro.

Media Release

Penny Sharpe MLC

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Labor's six point plan:

- Ensure that the plan of management of Kosciuszko National Park is the primary management document to guide the operation of the park;
- Restore resources to the National Parks and Wildlife Service cut by the Liberal-National Government to protect the park's pristine environment and threatened species;
- Minimise the impacts of pest species (both plants and animals) through adequately funded and effective control programmes. This includes wild pigs, dogs, deer and horses;
- Conduct a scientific assessment and count of the horse population in consultation with key stakeholders;
- Ensure wild horses are acknowledged for their cultural value by retaining a smaller population in the park where degradation is less critical, and manage the horse population guided by the extensive work that produced the 2016 Draft Wild Horse Management Plan to:
 1. increase resources and research capacity for humane population control measures such as fertility control;
 2. establish a formal and well-resourced rehoming program for wild horses to rapidly increase the number of horses able to be rehomed outside of the park;
 3. ensure that large horse populations do not lead to starvation and the poor animal welfare outcomes of mortality from starvation;
 4. ensure that horse populations in identified sensitive landscapes are actively managed to protect the fragile alpine habitat and threatened plant and animal species; and
 5. maintain the ban on aerial culling to continue humane animal welfare standards.
- Repair the mountain catchments – establish a highly-trained Kosciuszko works crew dedicated to halting erosion in the mountain catchments and restoring and repairing the current eroding slopes, wetlands and mountain streams. This work will restore the best possible water delivery from the catchments to the Snowy Scheme and for downstream farmers, towns and cities.

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