

NSW election scorecard: Where do the Shooters, Fishers & Farmers 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 Shooters, Fishers & Farmers position

- Will implement 2016 Draft Wild Horse Management Plan.
- Repeal horse protection law.
- Support a range of control options including trapping and ground shooting. Aerial shooting ruled out.

Questionnaire results

Provided to the Invasive Species Council on 8th March 2019 by Stephen Larsson, Office of Robert Borsak, Shooters, Farmers and Fishers Member of the NSW Legislative Council.

1. How will your party protect Kosciuszko National Park from the damaging impacts of feral horses?

Introduce a bill to repeal the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018 to enable control of horses.

2. The 2018 Feral Horse Impacts - Kosciuszko Science Conference showed that horses were detrimental to Kosciuszko National Park, even in small numbers. The Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018 takes away the ability of managers to follow best scientific advice. Will you support the repeal of the *Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018* during the next parliamentary sitting?

Yes.

3. Will you support increasing the NPWS budget for managing Kosciuszko National Park? If so how much will it increase, by when, and will this increase be permanent?

Yes. However legislation needs to be amended to allow experienced licensed vertebrate pest controllers access to KNP to humanely shoot animals from the ground. The Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party will move such amendments.

4. Which of these methods of reducing horse numbers in Kosciuszko National Park will you support:

Trapping and re-homing:	Yes.
Trapping and transport to abattoir:	Yes.
Trapping and in-situ euthanasia:	Yes.
Aerial mustering into traps:	Yes.
Ground shooting:	Yes.
Aerial shooting:	No - Aerial shooting not only stresses animals it is highly prone to adverse welfare outcomes as we saw at Guy Fawkes NP.
Relocation to less sensitive areas of the park:	No.
Other (please describe):	No poisons.

5. Do you agree with the urgent need to significantly reduce horse numbers as demonstrated by the 2018 Kosciuszko Science Conference proceedings? What would be the desired number of feral horses for Kosciuszko National Park and when should this be achieved by?

Yes.

6. Does your party plan on implementing the 2016 Draft Kosciuszko Wild Horse Management Plan within 6 months of being elected?

Yes.

7. No horses have been trapped under the 2008 Kosciuszko Wild Horse Management Plan since August 2017. If elected will your party commit to immediately restart the trapping program under the 2008 Kosciuszko Wild Horse Management Plan during the interim as a new horse management plan is being finalised?

Yes.

8. Does your party have a plan to rehabilitate the areas in Kosciuszko National Park damaged and degraded by feral horses? If so please elaborate.

No.

9. Please provide us with information about any other initiatives your party proposes relevant to feral horse control in Kosciuszko National Park.

We are opposed to use of 1080 on large vertebrate pest such as horses, deer, goats, pigs.

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