

Kosciuszko Wild Horse Community Advisory Panel



Meeting minutes

Details

Location: National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), 11 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan

Date/time: 10 am – 2 pm
Friday 1 November 2019

Chairperson: [REDACTED]

Deputy Chair: Prof. [REDACTED]

People present

1. Chairperson: [REDACTED]
2. Deputy Chair: [REDACTED]
3. Member: [REDACTED]
4. Member: [REDACTED]
5. Member: [REDACTED]
6. Member: [REDACTED]
7. Member: [REDACTED]
8. NPWS representative: [REDACTED] Director Southern Ranges Branch
9. Secretary: [REDACTED] Project Officer- Wild Horses, NPWS

Apologies

10. Member: [REDACTED]

1. Opening and Welcome

[REDACTED] offered a Welcome to Country.

2. Apologies

[REDACTED]

3. Introductions

As this was the first meeting of the Community Advisory Panel, all members and NPWS representatives introduced themselves and their respective backgrounds.

4. Correspondence

ACTION: NPWS requested that members return their Personal Details and Tax Forms to the Secretary.

It was noted that some members reported difficulties accessing the SharePoint page created for the panel.

ACTION: Secretary to resend invitations to the panel's SharePoint page. USBs will be mailed to those members that continue to experience difficulties accessing the page.

5. Member's Induction

- The NPWS inducted the Panel on behalf of the Minister of Energy and Environment.
- It was noted that the panel is community-led and supported by NPWS.
- NPWS advised that the Chair is the authorised member to speak officially on behalf of the panel after prior approval from NPWS. However, it was noted that unless specifically asked the chair and panel felt that keeping the substance of their discussions "within the panel" seemed most productive.

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- NPWS noted that members are free to use social media or speak to the media but are not authorised to publicly represent the panel.

ACTION: Panel Terms of Reference and Communications Protocol to be provided electronically to members.

6. A New Wild Horse Heritage Management Plan

- NPWS noted that as part of the panel requirements in accordance with the *Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018*, the panel will consider defining a sustainable wild horse population for the park, and where that population is appropriate to be located.
- NPWS advised of the Minister's request that the final plan be completed by 1 May 2020. Given the Act's requirements for consultation of the draft plan, this will necessitate completion of a draft plan by February 2020.

ACTION: The panel will consider its progress at the next meeting, and then seek an extension to the new plan's deadline if considered necessary.

7. Horse Distribution and Abundance

- The results of the 2019 Australian Alps wild horse aerial survey were not tabled but were agreed as critical information to determine the rate of population growth since the 2014 aerial survey. This may assist in determining a sustainable population.
- NPWS advised that the draft 2019 wild horse aerial survey report is currently being reviewed by independent technical experts and results may be available by the end of November.
- The majority of members noted that horse distribution and abundance was increasing in many areas. Some members noted this was causing increasing safety risks to visitors. The panel noted the NPWS view that the increase was thought to be due to failure of current control programs.

ACTION: NPWS to seek approval from the Australian Alps Management Program to release the results of the 2019 Australian Alps wild horse aerial survey at the next meeting.

8. A Sustainable Population

- The panel considered a number of vectors impacting the horse population including the effect of natural disasters on the population eg. fire.
- It asked about other ecological sustainability measures as an indicator.

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

9. Management Techniques to Limit Distribution

- The panel discussed park management and control tools:
 - Salting of roads attracts horses.
 - Consider the use of fencing, including virtual fencing, of the Snowy Mountains Highway.

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ACTION: Request the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Scientific Advisory Group to consider the use of virtual fencing as a management technique.

10. Content of a New Plan

- The panel noted the objectives of the Act create a useful starting point.
- NPWS asked if the panel agrees with the recommendations of the cultural heritage assessment completed during development of the 2016 draft plan.

11. Failings of the 2016 Draft Plan

- The panel noted that there is:
 -

ACTION: Members to review the *2016 draft Kosciuszko Wild Horse Management Plan* and consider what they want to see changed and why?

12. Consultation with the Scientific Advisory Panel

The panel seeks to meet with the Scientific Advisory Panel.

ACTION: What assistance do members seek from the Scientific Advisory Panel?

ACTION: Questions for the Scientific Advisory Panel:

- What methodology can be used for measuring the environmental impact of horses?
- Can drones be used in population monitoring or mustering?

13. Next Meetings

There was no preference for meeting venues.

Meeting dates proposed are:

- Monday 9 December in Queanbeyan.
 - [REDACTED] will be an apology.
- Monday 13 January
- Friday 14 February

ACTION: Requirement for a site visit to be considered by members.

14. Meeting Reporting

Individual's opinions will not be identified in meeting minutes.

A one-page summary of the meeting will be made available for public distribution.

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15. Next meeting

Monday 9 December 2019, 10 am – 2 pm at NPWS office, 11 Farrer Place Queanbeyan.

16. Meeting Close

1:35 pm

[REDACTED]

Chairperson

Actions from this meeting

No.	Action	Responsible	Date Completed
1	NPWS requested that members return their Personal Details and Tax Forms to the Secretary.	All / Secretary	
2	Secretary to resend invitations to the panel's SharePoint page. USBs will be mailed to those members that continue to experience difficulties accessing the page.	Secretary	
3	Panel Terms of Reference and Communications Protocol to be provided electronically to members.	Secretary	
4	The panel will consider its progress at the next meeting, and then seek an extension to the new plan's deadline if considered necessary.	All	
5	NPWS to seek approval from the Australian Alps Management Program to release the results of the 2019 Australian Alps wild horse aerial survey at the next meeting.	[REDACTED]	
6	Request the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Scientific Advisory Group to consider the use of virtual fencing as a management technique.	[REDACTED]	
7	Members to review the <i>2016 draft Kosciuszko Wild Horse Management Plan</i> and consider what do they want to see changed and why?	All	
8	What assistance do members seek from the Scientific Advisory Panel?	All	
9	Questions for the Scientific Advisory Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What methodology can be used for measuring the environmental impact of horses?• Can drones be used in population monitoring or mustering?	[REDACTED]	

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No.	Action	Responsible	Date Completed
10	Requirement for a site visit to be considered by members.	All	