

Kosciuszko Wild Horse Community Advisory Panel



Meeting minutes

Details

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

Date/time: 1 – 5 pm
Friday 14 February 2020

Chairperson: [REDACTED]

Deputy Chair: [REDACTED]

People present

1. Chairperson: [REDACTED]
2. Deputy Chair: [REDACTED]
3. Member: [REDACTED]
4. Member: M [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

1. Opening and welcome

Since the combined meeting of the Community and Scientific Advisory Panels was held earlier in the day, an additional welcome was not required.

2. Apologies

Nil

3. Declarations of pecuniary or other interest

Nil

4. Correspondence

- A. [REDACTED] (Snowy Mountains Brumby Sustainability and Management Group, Snowy Mountains Bush Users Group). Received 30 January 2020. RE: need for a new population survey.
- B. [REDACTED] Received 3 February. RE: legal advice on the social media defamation of panel members
- C. [REDACTED] Received 10 February 2020. RE: Australian Alps feral horse aerial survey questions.

[REDACTED] provided a brief overview of the nature of the legal advice he received regarding action that can be taken in response to defamatory social media content directed at panel members. NPWS also shared Departmental legal advice regarding protections for panel members. [REDACTED]

The panel noted they do not have the expertise to respond to [REDACTED] questions.

ACTION: Secretary to thank [REDACTED] for his letter, noting that the content is not within the panel's realm to consider at this time.

ACTION: NPWS to provide a summary of Departmental legal advice related to protecting panel members from social media defamation.

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ACTION: Secretary to distribute [REDACTED] letter to all panel members.

ACTION: Secretary to thank [REDACTED] for his letter and forward it to the Australian Alps National Parks Management Program for response.

5. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes

Panel members accepted the previous minutes.

6. Matters arising from minutes of previous meetings

No.	Action	Responsible	Date Completed
1 November 2019 meeting			
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	November 2019
3	Panel Terms of Reference and Communications Protocol to be provided electronically to members.	Secretary	26 November 2019
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]	16 December 2019
6	Request the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Scientific Advisory Group to consider the use of virtual fencing as a management technique.	[REDACTED]	6 November 2019
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	9 December 2019
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]	6 November 2019
10	Requirement for a site visit to be considered by members.	All	

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No.	Action	Responsible	Date Completed
9 December 2019 meeting			
11	[REDACTED]	NPWS	
12	[REDACTED]	NPWS	
13	Request the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Scientific Advisory Group consider the use of drones to be a progressive way of developing evidence-based population monitoring in real time.	NPWS	17 December 2019
14	[REDACTED]	NPWS	17 December 2019
15	NPWS to prepare a summary of the four key components of the 2016 draft <i>Kosciuszko Wild Horse Management Plan</i> that need amending. The summary is to be made available to panel members before Christmas so that further discussion can occur with their relevant stakeholders	NPWS	23 December 2019
16	NPWS to ask the Scientific Advisory Panel to consider a request for a joint meeting with the Community Advisory Panel on 13 January 2020.	NPWS	17 December 2019

7. Revised timeframe for a new wild horse heritage management plan

[REDACTED] The next meeting of the panel is potentially the last before completion of the draft plan.

ACTION: Members to develop a draft formal document which details the panel's recommendations for the new wild horse heritage management plan prior to the next meeting. The document will be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Feedback on the combined meeting with the Scientific Advisory Panel

Each member provided their feedback on the proceedings of the combined meeting with the Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP). All members were positive about the meeting and the SAP member's conduct and requested to hold another joint meeting. Comments from members included:

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- It was an opportunity to openly discuss aerial shooting and the welfare impacts of varying control methods.
- [REDACTED]
- Opportunity for the Scientific Advisory Panel to learn from the Community Advisory Panel.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Opportunity to include discussions relating to Aboriginal heritage.
- Seeking more comment from NPWS.
- [REDACTED]
- Support for areas of elimination and reduction.

At the request of the panel, NPWS provided comment based on the panel's discussion of the outcomes of the combined meeting:

- Support for further combined meetings of the two panels.
- Support for focussing on outcomes, rather than a 'number for removal'.
- Support for fertility treatment trials.

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

9. Post-fire impacts and control

[REDACTED] stated that the current population estimates are the best available at this time. Estimates can be further refined during management, particularly over smaller areas. The rate of population change is easier to detect than absolute numbers of horses. [REDACTED]

The Panel generally supported commencing management in the three priority areas identified by the SAP and that the focus should be on the spatial area, not the numbers of horses in those areas. Members were encouraged to discuss the post-fire recovery planning with their external stakeholders.

The panel generally acknowledged that the three areas for post-fire management are the first step in management over the longer term, with further areas to be identified for reduction or elimination. Work was still needed from the panels on identifying horse heritage areas. Management areas are generally consistent with the 2016 *draft Kosciuszko Wild Horse Management Plan*. Monitoring was

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required in elimination areas during the control program in order to inform future work in other management areas.

NPWS informed the panel that approximately 25% of horse distribution area was impacted by fire.

Most panel members acknowledged that further work was required to maximise rehoming and that to ensure a significant change, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Members discussed fertility treatments.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
A member expressed concern over the difficulty in disseminating members documents to the rest of the panel. The Chair stated that documents meant for the panel should be provided to the Secretary, who will then forward it to the Chair for a decision on whether it should be disseminated.

One member requested discussion of translocation of horses and whether the population would be resurveyed after the bushfires.

ACTION: NPWS to request the Scientific Advisory Panel to provide

- definitive boundaries for the three priority management areas for post-fire recovery
- definitive advice and detail on methods of control recommended for post-fire recovery
- identification of future management areas
- advice on numbers that will be required to maintain viable horse populations in management areas where horses are to be retained
- advice on whether the existing population estimates can be extrapolated to smaller areas
- advice on whether a community-run population survey conducted on horseback could be designed so that it gave a statistically rigorous estimate.

ACTION: NPWS to provide a map of the three post-fire recovery management areas to panel members.

10. Next meeting

Friday 3 April 2020 at NPWS office, 11 Farrer Place Queanbeyan:

- 9 am – 12:30 pm – combined meeting of the Community and Scientific Advisory Panels
- 1 – 5 pm – Community Advisory Panel meeting

11. Meeting Close

3:13 pm

[REDACTED]
Chairperson

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Actions from this meeting

No.	Action	Responsible	Date Completed
1	Secretary to thank [REDACTED] for his letter, noting that the content is not within the panel's realm to consider at this time.	Secretary	
2	NPWS to provide a summary of Departmental legal advice related to protecting panel members from social media defamation.	NPWS	
3	Secretary to distribute [REDACTED] letter to all panel members.	Secretary	
4	Secretary to thank [REDACTED] for his letter and forward it to the Australian Alps National Parks Management Program for response.	Secretary	
5	Members to develop a draft formal document which details the panel's recommendations for the new wild horse heritage management plan prior to the next meeting. The document will be discussed at the next meeting.	All	
6	NPWS to request the Scientific Advisory Panel to provide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> definitive boundaries for the three priority management areas for post-fire recovery definitive advice and detail on methods of control recommended for post-fire recovery identification of future management areas advice on numbers that will be required to maintain viable horse populations in management areas where horses are to be retained advice on whether the existing population estimates can be extrapolated to smaller areas advice on whether a community-run population survey conducted on horseback could be designed so that it gave a statistically rigorous estimate. 	NPWS	
7	NPWS to provide a map of the three post-fire recovery management areas to panel members.	NPWS	14 February 2020