

# Kosciuszko Wild Horse Scientific Advisory Panel



Extraordinary meeting minutes

## Details

**Location:** via Teams  
**Date/time:** 2 – 3 pm  
Friday 15 May 2020  
**Chairperson:** [REDACTED]  
**Deputy Chair:** [REDACTED]

## People present

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

## 1. Opening and Welcome

[REDACTED] opened the meeting and offered an Acknowledgement of Country, noting that members were meeting on various places on Country.

## 2. Apologies

Nil

## 3. Draft Report of the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Scientific Advisory Panel

The panel discussed changes that were still needed to finalise their draft report:

- Most of the content will be moved to the appendices such that the main report remains concise.
- Agreement to align the report's contents with the international consensus principles for ethical wildlife control. Using the guidelines will demonstrate an ethical and transparent approach to the SAP's recommendations.
- The report needs to be written for the Minister for Energy and Environment. As such, a clear and concise executive summary is required.
- The post-fire recovery advice will not be included in the report since it has already been reported separately.

The report, although written for the Minister, will also be presented to the Community Advisory Panel. The panel also acknowledged that the report will be made publicly available.

**ACTION:** [REDACTED] to add the remaining animal welfare content and then rearrange the report to align with the international ethical consensus principles.

**ACTION:** [REDACTED] to complete the executive summary.

**ACTION:** [REDACTED] to undertake the final report review.

## 4. Questions from the Community Advisory Panel

The panel reviewed the most recent questions received from the Community Advisory Panel to ensure that all issues have been adequately addressed in the report or information can be provided separately:

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- Translocation – has been addressed in the report. [REDACTED]
- Post-fire management area boundaries – has been addressed previously. [REDACTED]
- Post-fire control methods – have already been defined. The panel acknowledged further information on other control methods can be provided to the Community Advisory Panel.
- Future management areas – the panel agreed that the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] The panel discussed priority areas for management to prevent incursions into new areas or over state boundaries. [REDACTED]
- Viable horse population numbers [REDACTED]
- Extrapolating the Alps-wide population survey results to provide estimates for smaller areas – the panel agreed this could not be achieved with any statistical reliability.
- Population monitoring from horse-back – NPWS provided an update on the population monitoring currently being planned for the post-fire management areas. The panel agreed that with the involvement of scientists, population monitoring on [REDACTED] The benefits and constraints of this method were discussed.
- The importance of the post-fire management areas – information has been included in the report.
- Proposal for the trial of all control methods – information will be included in the report.

The panel are keen to meet in person with the Community Advisory Panel, but current travel restrictions associated with COVID-19 makes this difficult.

### **ACTION:** [REDACTED]

**ACTION:** [REDACTED] to include the panel's recommendations regarding the heritage significance of wild horses in the report.

**ACTION:** [REDACTED] to include commentary on the genetic sustainability of wild horses in the report.

## 5. Community consultation and engagement

The panel agreed that a combined meeting of the two panels should be scheduled as a matter of urgency given incorrect information appears to be circulating publicly about management. NPWS stated that the Community Advisory Panel will meet separately sometime after that meeting, and preferably in person. NPWS informed the panel that a draft report from the Community Advisory Panel's chair had been circulated to Community Advisory Panel members and included comments from [REDACTED]

**ACTION:** Secretary to schedule a combined meeting of the panels for the week of 8 June 2020 via video.

**ACTION:** Secretary to remind Community Advisory Panel members that the Scientific Advisory Panel members are available for off-line discussions if required.

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### 6. Next steps

**ACTION:** NPWS to work with [REDACTED] from the Community Advisory Panel to develop aboriginal cultural heritage recommendations for the report.

**ACTION:** NPWS to provide Corroboree frog data to the panel.

**ACTION:** Secretary to provide information on ways panel members can meet via video conferencing between meetings.

### 7. Meeting close

2:55 pm

[REDACTED]  
**Chairperson**

### Actions from this meeting

No.	Action	Responsible	Date Completed
1	[REDACTED] to add the remaining animal welfare content and then rearrange the report to align with the international ethical consensus principles.	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	
2	[REDACTED] to complete the executive summary.	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	
3	[REDACTED] to undertake the final report review.	[REDACTED]	
4	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	All	
5	[REDACTED] to include the panel's recommendations regarding the heritage significance of wild horses in the report.	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	
6	[REDACTED] to include commentary on the genetic sustainability of wild horses in the report.	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	
7	Secretary to schedule a combined meeting of the panels for the week of 8 June 2020 via video.	Secretary	

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No.	Action	Responsible	Date Completed
8	Secretary to remind Community Advisory Panel members that the Scientific Advisory Panel members are available for off-line discussions if required.	Secretary	
9	NPWS to work with [REDACTED] from the Community Advisory Panel to develop aboriginal cultural heritage recommendations for the report.	NPWS and [REDACTED]	
10	NPWS to provide Corroboree frog data to the panel.	NPWS	
11	Secretary to provide information on ways panel members can meet via video conferencing between meetings.	Secretary	