

Details

Location: via Teams

Date/time: 1 – 5 pm

Thursday 2 April 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. Guest: [REDACTED] Administrative Support Officer, NPWS (minute-taker)
9. Guest: [REDACTED] Deputy Chair, Kosciuszko Wild Horse Community Advisory Panel
10. Guest: [REDACTED] Senior Project Officer- Pest Management Techniques, NPWS
11. Guest: [REDACTED] Senior Field Supervisor, NPWS

Apologies

1. 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 areas of Country.

2. Apologies

[REDACTED]

3. Declarations of pecuniary or other interest

Nil.

4. Correspondence

Nil external correspondence.

A draft report from the Chair of the Community Advisory Panel was sent to some members.

ACTION: [REDACTED] to ascertain whether the draft report from the Chair of the Community Advisory Panel can be disseminated to all Scientific Advisory Panel members.

5. Acceptance of previous meeting's minutes

Panel members accepted the previous minutes.

Meeting minutes

Action No. 20: Scientific evidence for the post-fire removal of horses

A site visit was planned in an attempt to justify the post-fire removal of horses but had to be postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions. The panel suggested drone footage may be useful in lieu of a site visit.

Action No. 21: Post-fire control advice to the Community Advisory Panel

The panel identified a delayed reaction from the Community Advisory Panel on the post-fire advice and many questions had been received since the advice was presented.

ACTION: Panel to compile further information for the Community Advisory Panel on the three post-fire management areas so that the boundaries can be confirmed. Further information is also to be provided on the importance of each management area.

ACTION: NPWS to confirm whether COVID-19 restrictions will affect knackery operations during the post-fire control program.

7. Shooting of wild horses

██████████ presented information to members on aerial, ground and in-traps shooting.

██████████ explained the method of locating and accessing animals. Considerations included the terrain and vegetation, and ways to confirm the death of an animal. ██████████ explained that all methods will need to be trialled, with the welfare of the animal as priority.

ACTION: Secretary to distribute the wild horse shooting presentation to panel members.

ACTION: NPWS to confirm whether images and footage of shooting operations can be obtained externally through the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

ACTION: The panel to develop a proposal to the Community Advisory Panel for the ██████████.

8. Post-fire control update

NPWS stated that Ministerial approval had not yet been received to enable commencement of the post-fire control program.

ACTION: NPWS to conduct an analysis of the risk of transmitting COVID-19 versus delaying post-fire recovery efforts.

9. Finalisation of a report of recommendations to the Minister

The panel agreed that there were two levels of advice required: 1. Post-fire; and, 2. New wild horse heritage management plan.

10. Monitoring

Monitoring programs were important to understand the environmental responses due to horse removal. The panel discussed the benefits of camera trap monitoring since species could be positively identified. ██████████

Hugh Durrant-Whyte explained the benefits of drone-based monitoring as an available technology that could provide true and accurate information. Pro ██████████ presented a plan to undertake

Meeting minutes

drone monitoring using a thermal and visual camera. [REDACTED]

The panel will produce a document specifying the methodology of measuring the animal welfare outcome of each control method.

Aboriginal heritage surveys were planned as part of the post-fire control program but may need to be postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

11. Outstanding questions from the Community Advisory Panel's 14 February 2020 meeting

Identification of future management areas

Areas for future management will be based on environment and heritage values from the 2016 *draft Wild Horse Management Plan*. [REDACTED]

Viable horse populations in each management area

The panel agreed that viable population numbers for each management area could not be specified. [REDACTED]

Extrapolation of population estimates to smaller management areas

The panel agreed that new surveys would be needed to estimate the population in smaller areas. The use of the drone may fulfil this purpose in the future.

Statistically significant population surveys undertaken on horseback

ACTION: The panel will present their answers to the Community Advisory Panel's questions at the next combined meeting of the panels.

12. Joint meeting with the Community Advisory Panel

The panel acknowledged the need to draft its advice on the new wild horse heritage management plan to assist the Community Advisory Panel with its advice prior to the next combined meeting of the panels.

ACTION: The panel will draft its advice to the Minister on the new wild horse heritage plan by 10 April for presentation to the Community Advisory Panel.

Meeting minutes

13. Next meetings

The panel recommended that its advice be drafted before setting a date for the next combined meeting of the panels. The next meeting of the Scientific Advisory Panel will not be scheduled until the combined meeting has been held.

14. Meeting close

4:45 pm

██████████

Chairperson

Actions from this meeting

No.	Action	Responsible	Date Completed
1	██████████ to ascertain whether the draft report from the Chair of the Community Advisory Panel can be disseminated to all Scientific Advisory Panel members.	██████████ ██████████	
2	Panel to compile further information for the Community Advisory Panel on the three post-fire management areas so that the boundaries can be confirmed. Further information is also to be provided on the importance of each management area.	All	
3	NPWS to confirm whether COVID-19 restrictions will affect knackery operations during the post-fire control program.	NPWS	
4	Secretary to distribute the wild horse shooting presentation to panel members.	Secretary	
5	NPWS to confirm whether images and footage of shooting operations can be obtained externally through the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i> .	NPWS	
6	The panel to develop a proposal to the Community Advisory Panel ██████████	All	
7	NPWS to conduct an analysis of the risk of transmitting COVID-19 versus delaying post-fire recovery efforts.	NPWS	
8	The panel will present their answers to the Community Advisory Panel's questions at the next combined meeting of the panels.	Chair	

Kosciuszko Wild Horse Scientific Advisory Panel



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No.	Action	Responsible	Date Completed
9	The panel will draft its advice to the Minister on the new wild horse heritage plan by 10 April for presentation to the Community Advisory Panel.	All	

Actions from previous meetings

No.	Action	Responsible	Date Completed
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6 November 2019 meeting

1	Secretary to provide members a copy of the letter from the ITRG to the Minister for Environment.	Secretary	21 November 2019
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	12 February 2019
3	NPWS to provide a recommended reading list to members.	Secretary	13 November 2019
4	Secretary to ensure agreed discussion points are added to future meeting agendas.	Secretary	Ongoing
5	NPWS to confirm whether sitting fees can be increased to include travel time	Secretary	20 November 2019
6	██████████ to provide an update on fertility control at the next meeting.	██████████	24 December 2019
7	Secretary to distribute member contact details amongst the panel.	Secretary	13 November 2019

17 December 2019 meeting

8	NPWS to confirm the format in which final recommendations from the panel need to be provided to NPWS.	NPWS	13 February 2020
9	██████████ to prepare a summary of the 16 December 2019 site visit.	██████████	10 January 2020

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No.	Action	Responsible	Date Completed
21	The Chair will present the post-fire control plan to the Community Advisory Panel at the joint meeting on 14 February for comment and endorsement.	Chair	14 February 2020