

MEDIA RELEASE - 4 June 2018

BRUMBIES SHOULD STAY ON THE PLAINS

Mountain Cattlemen are angry with the Government's announcement to exterminate every Brumby from the Bogong High Plains.

"The Bogong High Plains are vast and iconic. The small mob of Brumbies that run on the Plains (estimated less than 100) cause minimal impact to that vast area but are a significant part of the heritage that makes the Plains so special to visitors", Graeme Stoney, President of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria (MCAV) said today.

"With any debate about public land there should be a balance and keeping the small mob on the Plains should be part of that balanced management for cultural, heritage and tourism reasons.

"The Bogong High Plains are one of the few places in the Park that the visiting public can gain a glimpse of the Brumbies and such an experience is very exciting and rewarding even to hardened and experienced bushpeople.

"The MCAV has supported the need to reduce numbers of horses in other parts of the Alpine Park, such as near the NSW border where numbers are increasing to levels where there is impact on the environment. That area is mostly closed up to the public so glimpses of horses are rare.

"It is interesting that the Government has chosen to introduce emotional language, naming the Brumbies "feral horses" to justify this extermination of a cultural icon in the Bogongs.

"If it was good enough for Banjo Patterson, Elyne Mitchell, Jackie French and Alison Lester to write about the Brumby, it's good enough for modern day Victoria to continue to call them Brumbies. We are losing enough of our history and traditions to please minority groups as it is" Mr Stoney concluded.

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