

28 August 2020

The Hon. Matt Kean MP
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Removal of feral horses from Kosciuszko National Park

Dear Minister,

The NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers, formed in 1958, is the peak representative body for the State's freshwater anglers, focusing on fisheries management, conservation and regulatory matters, angler access, angling ethics, animal welfare and politics.

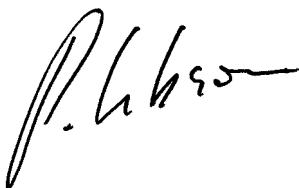
Many of our members are keen visitors to Kosciuszko National Park for fishing, bushwalking, skiing and other activities. Over several decades we have witnessed first-hand the sudden increase of feral horse numbers in the Park and have seen the extraordinary damage they have caused.

We also watched with dismay as your colleague John Barilaro introduced the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Bill 2018 into the NSW Parliament in 2018, ignoring advice from the government's own agencies, independent scientific experts and the protests of many in the community.

We notice and strongly support your continuing efforts to remove and cull the horses—even in the face of opposition from within your own government. We urge you to press ahead with that program, indeed we would like to see the program greatly accelerated—the few thousand horses that might be removed in the immediate cull will be more than replaced by breeding by the remaining animals.

If you ever need expressions of support for the removal process or for your efforts, we will be pleased to offer every assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Gibson'.

Peter Gibson
President, NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers