



# Meeting Summary

## Kosciuszko Wild Horse Community Advisory Panel

Thursday 22 February 2024

The Kosciuszko Wild Horse Community Advisory Panel was formed under the *Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018*. The panel provides advice to the Minister for Environment and Heritage or the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) on matters relating to the identification of the heritage value, and the management of, sustainable wild horse populations within Kosciuszko National Park. The current panel membership was reappointed by the Minister for Environment and Heritage in February 2024.

The panel met at Queanbeyan, and five members were in attendance. Due to a lack of a quorum, no official decisions could be made at the meeting.

### NPWS update

NPWS provided a program update since the last ordinary meeting of the panel in August 2023. Topics of discussion included:

- The plan amendment
- Commonwealth Senate inquiry report into the impacts of feral horses in the Australian Alps
- NSW Legislative Council inquiry into the proposed aerial shooting of brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park
- NPWS meetings with community members about the population survey.

NPWS also provided information to the panel to help correct mis- and disinformation circulating amongst sectors of the community concerning issues such as the population survey methodology and aerial shooting,

### Retention management areas

The panel discussed the types and groups of horses they considered culturally important within the retention management areas, and other environmental, heritage and management factors that would need to be taken into account in the retention of these horses. NPWS provided information on the types of horses considered culturally important by the former panel. It was important to some panel members that they continue to be able to see horses in the park.

## **Next meetings**

The panel scheduled their meetings for 2024, with meetings proposed for April, July and November. The November meeting date will include a site visit to the south of the park.