

"Lethal approach"

It is hardly surprising that Brett McNamara, who has fiercely defended the indefensible annual slaughter of kangaroos in the ACT, should now be advocating a similar slaughter of horses in ACT and NSW.

Does he not realise that by advocating lethal control of horses he is guaranteeing a permanent presence of large numbers of wild horses in our mountains?

Like kangaroos, horses breed only one young a year but, unlike kangaroos, who lose most of their joeys to fox predation (foxes having replaced dingoes as their primary predator), most wild horses in Australia have no predators. Consequently, their populations recover from either natural or anthropogenic crashes much more quickly than kangaroos.

Since killing the entire population of Southern Alps brumbies is impossible because so many of them are impossible to find, there will always be enough survivors to fully replenish the population in just a few years.

Anyone who wants the horses gone, or the horses protected from cruelty, or both, would not advocate lethal control, they would advocate fertility control.

Incidentally, the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018 does not, as the article asserts, 'prohibit culling'.

It does not mention 'non-lethal management', or relocation'. It does nothing at all except delay the problem till after the NSW election.

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