



7 June 2023

The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, Federal Minister for the Environment
The Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC, NSW Minister for the Environment
The Hon. Ingrid Stitt MLC, Victorian Minister for Environment
Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, ACT Minister for the Environment

Sent by email: Minister.Plibersek@dcceew.gov.au; office@sharpe.minister.nsw.au;
Ingrid.Stitt@parliament.vic.gov.au; vassarotti@act.gov.au

Re: Upcoming Environment Ministers Meeting and feral horse management in the Australian Alps

Dear Ministers,

On behalf of the **Invasive Species Council**, the **Australian Conservation Foundation**, the **Conservation Councils of NSW and ACT**, **Environment Victoria**, the **National Parks Associations of NSW, Victoria and the ACT**, **CPSU Federal, Victoria and ACT** and the **NSW Public Service Association** we write to request your collective support for coordinated and urgent control of feral horses across the Australian Alps to protect our native wildlife.

As you are aware, the outstanding natural, Indigenous and historic values of the iconic Australian Alps are being rapidly degraded by increasing numbers of highly damaging feral horses. Feral horses move freely across administrative boundaries, meaning that the successful removal of the threat in the Alps requires collective and coordinated effort across jurisdictions.

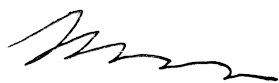
We are encouraged by the strong statements of support for urgent action that each of you have recently made on this issue. **We believe that the Environment Ministers Meeting on 9 June 2023 provides an excellent opportunity to make a collective statement and commit to taking meaningful action together.**

In particular, we urge you to use this opportunity to commit to:

1. **Work together to ensure the urgent and targeted removal of feral horses** across the Australian Alps to protect our native wildlife and alpine ecosystems.
2. **Condemn all acts of intimidation, obstruction and threats of violence towards staff** undertaking their lawful duties to remove feral animals.
3. **Reinvigorate the Alps Ministerial Council** by holding annual meetings of Commonwealth, NSW, Victorian and ACT Environment Ministers to discuss the management of the Australian Alps.
4. **Fund an officer reporting to the Australian Alps Liaison Committee** focussed on coordinated feral horse management across the Alps.
5. **Provide in-principle support for the development of new National Heritage Principles** for the Australian Alps for the management of feral animals, including feral horses.
6. **Provide in-principle support for a National Feral Horse Threat Abatement Plan.**
7. **Explore options for co-funding** ongoing removal of feral horses across the Alps.

If you wish to discuss this further please contact Jack Gough, Advocacy Manager, Invasive Species Council, on 0427 713 101 or jackg@invasives.org.au.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Cox
CEO, Invasive Species Council



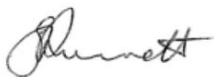
Kelly O'Shanassy
CEO, Australian Conservation
Foundation



Karen Batt
Secretary, CPSU Federal and
CPSU Victoria



Jacqui Mumford
CEO, Nature Conservation Council
of NSW



Gary Dunnett
CEO, National Parks Association
of NSW




Stewart Little
General Secretary, NSW Public
Service Association



Jono La Nauze
CEO, Environment Victoria



Matt Ruchel
CEO, Victorian National Parks
Association



Brenton Higgins
A/Secretary, CPSU ACT



Elle Lawless
CEO, Conservation Council ACT

Rosemary Hollow

Rosemary Hollow
President, National Parks
Association of the ACT