



# Meeting Summary

## Kosciuszko Wild Horse Community Advisory Panel

Wednesday 25 January 2023

The Kosciuszko Wild Horse Community Advisory Panel was formed under the *Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018*. The panel will provide independent advice to NPWS on key matters relating to the implementation of the *Kosciuszko National Park Wild Horse Heritage Management Plan* (the plan).

The panel met at the NSW Government building in Queanbeyan, and all seven members were in attendance for the first meeting of the panel, which was appointed in December 2022. The aim of this meeting was for members to meet and learn about their roles and responsibilities as NSW Government advisory panel members.

### Member's induction

Members were welcomed by the Chair and all members introduced themselves and their relevant skills and experience. The panel reviewed its aims, which is to provide advice to National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) on the implementation of the plan, rather than the content of the adopted plan itself.

Members reviewed the panel's Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct and discussed their preferred meeting venues and timings.

### Community engagement

Members discussed concerns for their personal safety, harassment via social media and risks of damage to their properties as a consequence by their representation on the panel. As such, members unanimously agreed to request NPWS to continue to withhold their names from public release.

The panel acknowledged and supported requests from sectors of the community to directly engage with the panel on wild horse management issues. Mechanisms to facilitate engagement with the community were discussed and will be made publicly available following the panel's decision on terms for the engagement at its next meeting.

### Presentations

The panel received presentations on the following topics from NPWS and independent experts:

- The Kosciuszko National Park Wild Horse Heritage Management Plan (the plan)

- The results of the evaluation of the implementation of the plan
- Safety review of the aerial deer shoot incident
- The 2022 wild horse population survey

## Next meeting

The panel plans to next meet in March. The meeting may include a site visit to the park. Topics for discussion at the next meeting include:

- The scalability of available control methods to achieve the plan's targets
- Ways to measure the effectiveness of removal of wild horses from the park on environmental values.