



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

Monday 7 October, 2013

The Hon. Robyn Parker, MP
Minister for the Environment
Level 32, Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister Parker,

Feral Horses in Wollemi Wilderness – Unauthorised Release

I note recent correspondence to your office from the Colong Foundation for Wilderness (6 September 2013) regarding the unauthorised release of over 60 feral horses from operations at Kosciuszko National Park into the Newnes State Forest. The Colong Foundation raised concern that these feral horses would potentially damage the endangered upland swamps of Newnes Plateau.

These horses have now expanded into upland swamp/grassland in the Wollemi Wilderness east of Waratah Ridge (Newnes State Forest). Photographic evidence follows. The establishment of horses well into the Wollemi Wilderness and in sensitive groundwater-dependent ecosystems is of extremely high concern for the region's conservation values.

I urge you to instigate a review of the pest horse management program for Kosciuszko National Park which has indirectly resulted in this release. I note that the present arrangements present a high likelihood of similar breaches occurring in the future.

I also urge that the present outbreak in Wollemi Wilderness/Newnes Plateau be investigated and the feral population eradicated as an immediate priority to avoid the likely establishment of a permanent population.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Ridgeway". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President, Blue Mountains Conservation Society
[Attachments follow]



Above – upland swamp/grassland habitat in Wollemi Wilderness (east of Waratah Ridge). At least two feral horse were heard and seven scat piles observed in this location, 6 October 2013



Above – one of seven feral horse scat piles in upland swamp/grassland, Wollemi Wilderness