

**Contact:**  
Karri Nadazdy  
Animal Care Australia Inc  
[horses@animalcareaustralia.org.au](mailto:horses@animalcareaustralia.org.au)



## **MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **IS BRUMBY WONDERLAND THE SOLUTION TO UNITE ENVIRONMENTALISTS AND HORSE LOVERS?**

With a government consultation and a parliamentary inquiry into aerial culling of wild horses in NSW, the opinions on how to manage the introduced horses have become increasingly divided and extreme.

On one side, are the environmentalists, who have valid concerns about how an animal not endemic to the region is impacting the environment and native flora and fauna.

On the other side are the horse lovers, who value the animals for their history, heritage and their suitability as riding and driving horses.

Extremists either want the horses completely culled in the quickest, most effective way, or don't want the horses managed at all and want them left where they are, free to roam as they please.

Most Australians would fall somewhere in the middle: we want to see our National Parks and pristine alpine regions protected from harm, but we also want to be humane towards the horses. They were introduced a long time ago and now it is up to us to be responsible and find pragmatic solutions.

“Good animal welfare must always be prioritized above cost and convenience,” said Karri Nadazdy, Horse & Livestock Representative of Animal Care Australia, “and for this reason, we oppose aerial culling of horses. However, the ongoing debate is not solving the problem – adding aerial culling is not the most humane solution, and we must address all the genuine issues here.”

Animal Care Australia is concerned that, to date, there has been no effective management plan of the brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park.

“Neglecting animals and then mass culling them is not animal management,” said Ms Nadazdy, “the previous failures to oversee these horses appropriately has led us to this current situation. The new government now has an opportunity to address this with viable, long term, higher welfare solutions – for all of the animals involved.”

Animal Care Australia proposes the NSW Government urgently adopts a One Welfare model: *recognising that animal welfare, biodiversity and environment are connected to human wellbeing*. To achieve this, Animal Care Australia calls on the NSW Government to oversee the establishment of a multi-faceted environmental centre, with a brumby sanctuary and outdoor adventure activities - all open to the public.

This centre would manage nature conservation through planned re-wilding, with a wildlife hospital, veterinary clinic and an animal care educational facility, a brumby rehoming centre, museum, tourism and include outdoor adventure activities offering interactive experiences with trained brumbies, as well as accommodation and dining. The centre would provide a contained space for the brumbies to continue to exist, be cared for and appreciated, as well as engage with community outreach programs on a multitude of levels.

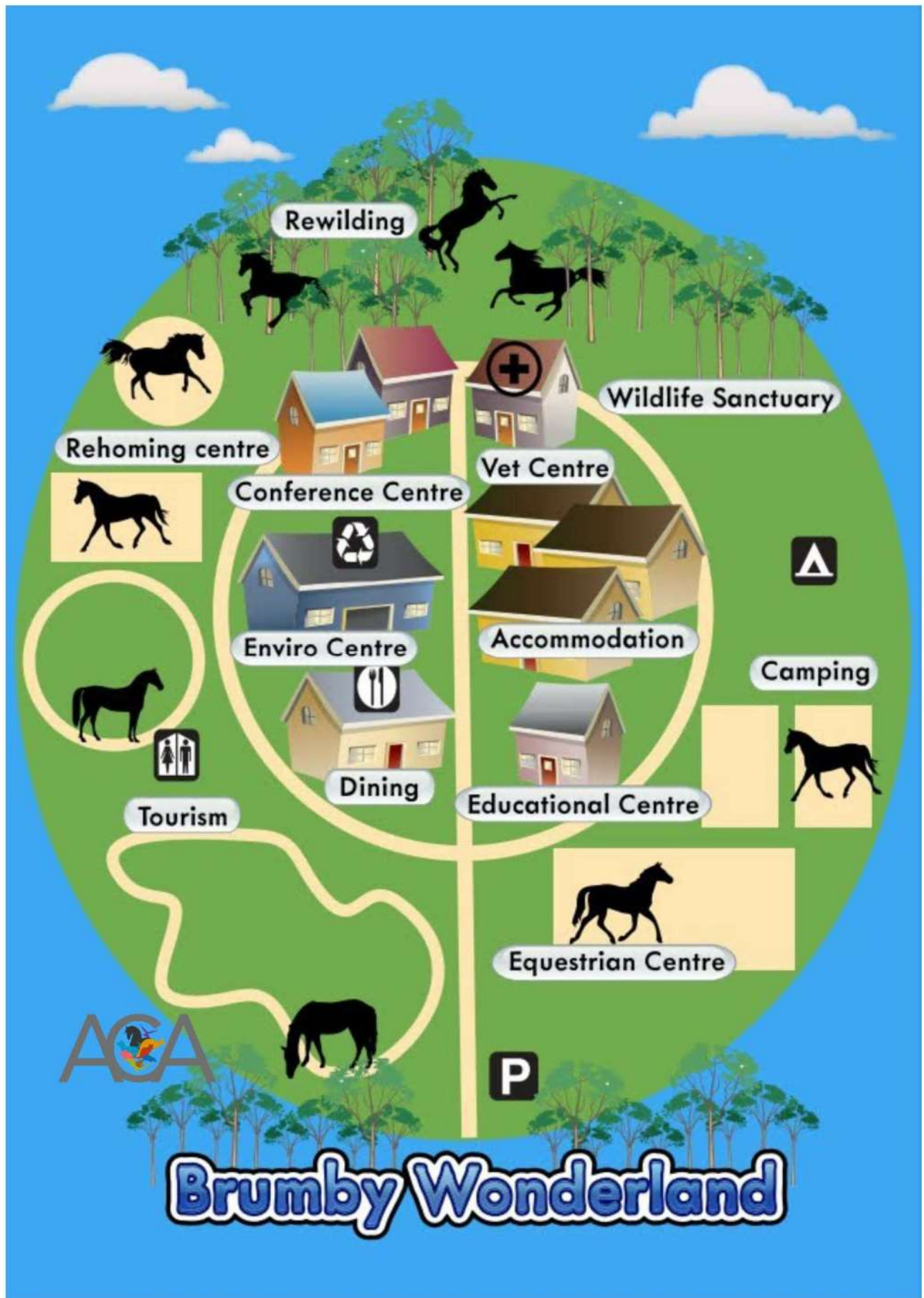
“This centre would solve many of the current conflicts with environmentalists and brumby advocates by bringing both sides together to work towards a common goal, with conservation at its core,” said Ms Nadazdy. “It would also provide additional wildlife care and veterinary training facilities to support and expand on existing services.”

Animal Care Australia has a broad model for how this could be funded and established, and how it would become self-sufficient into the future, to the benefit of the community as well as all of the animals involved, both native and introduced.

Animal Care Australia is the Peak Animal Welfare Body promoting high standards in all interactions with the animals in our care, to encourage responsible animal ownership, and the respectful treatment of all animals in our community

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If you would like more information about this topic, please email Karri Nadazdy [horses@animalcareaustralia.org.au](mailto:horses@animalcareaustralia.org.au)



## About Animal Care Australia

Animal Care Australia (ACA) is a national incorporated association established to advocate for real animal welfare by those who keep, breed and care for animals. Our goal is to promote and encourage high standards in all interactions with the animals in our care.

ACA was founded in early 2018 to establish an organisation run solely by volunteers. With extreme animal rights and animal liberationist ideologies influencing government legislation, regulation and policy at our expense and to the detriment of our animals and pets, it has become necessary to provide government with a balancing voice.

By uniting the broad spectrum of animal groups, collectively we offer an experienced, sensible approach to animal welfare. We estimate our foundation ACA clubs currently represent well over 150,000 members and that is just in NSW alone!

By educating our members and the general public about the importance of treating animals with kindness and respect for their needs, and promoting the humane treatment of animals to improve animal welfare outcomes, Animal Care Australia is in the unique position of collaborating, consulting and advocating for all animals within our care.

Animal Care Australia provides priority to the following:

- consulting with government for stronger welfare outcomes
- encouraging government to increase education of the public in animal welfare and best care techniques
- educating the public on handling their animals with kindness & respect and the importance of their needs
- educating the public in the differences between animal welfare and animal rights