



The Hon. John Barilaro MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional New South Wales,
Minister for Skills and Minister for Small Business

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MCU8-005968

The Hon. Michael McCormack MP
Deputy Prime Minister
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

COPY

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Division:	Link:
DLO: s22	Date: 7.5.18
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Environment and Energy Minister	
<input type="checkbox"/> Covering Ref	<input type="checkbox"/> Departmental Reply
<input type="checkbox"/> Minister Reply	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Action
<input type="checkbox"/> CoS/Advice Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> For information
<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Campaign <input type="checkbox"/> Advice/Min

Dear Deputy Prime Minister, *Michael*

I trust you are enjoying your new role and again offer my sincere congratulations on your election. Together with you, I look forward to continuing our bilateral efforts towards greater economic and social benefits for communities in regional NSW.

I understand you visited Parkes in January to see the first load of steel being delivered for the (construction of the Parkes to Narromine section of the Inland Rail). I am pleased that you also took the opportunity to meet with Parkes Shire Council to discuss their vision for an inland port and enterprise zone.

As discussed, Parkes has the potential to be a national distribution centre specialising in freight and logistics industries, taking advantage of its unique position on the East-West rail line and the opportunity presented by the Inland Rail project.

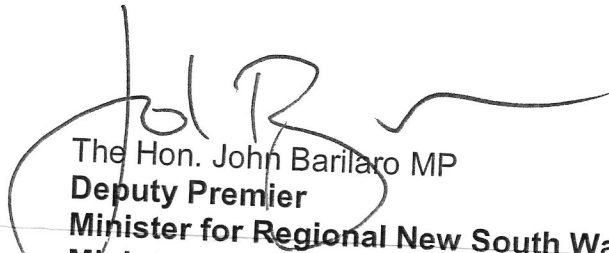
Building an inland port at Parkes would enable exporters to seal, certify and obtain customs clearance for goods moving to the national freight network. This will relieve congestion and costs experienced at existing seaports to improve the competitiveness of regional businesses and exporters.

We believe (the Parkes proposal) is a real opportunity to leverage the Inland Rail project to drive business investment, jobs and regional growth for Parkes and the broader central west of NSW. I am seeking your concurrence to work in partnership with the NSW Government to make the most of this opportunity to deliver for regional NSW.



Please respond at your earliest convenience to confirm your interest in the Parkes proposal. I would also appreciate you identifying a suitable contact so that NSW DPC officials can jointly advance this matter. My contact for this project is Georgina Beattie, Director Regional Strategy on (02) 9228 4549 or georgina.beattie@dpc.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



The Hon. John Barilaro MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional New South Wales
Minister for Skills and Minister for Small Business

cc: The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, Minister for the Environment and Energy



**THE HON JOSH FRYDENBERG MP
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY**

MS18-000671

29 JUN 2018

The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of New South Wales
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Premier *(Gladys)*

I refer to the recent announcement by the NSW Government that its Parliament has passed the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Bill 2018. I note that under this legislation, the NSW Government will not apply the full range of effective control techniques to manage and reduce the feral horse population and its associated densities and impacts in Kosciuszko National Park, and that instead the horses will be protected. At the same time, the Victorian Government has announced its plan to remove more than 1,200 feral horses from the Alpine National Park over the next three years, and importantly, remove all horses from its most sensitive alpine areas.

When the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Bill 2018 was first announced, I spoke to both the NSW Deputy Premier and to the NSW Minister for the Environment, and I am now seeking further detail about the specific actions and methods that your government will take to manage the impact of feral horses on the natural and cultural heritage values of Kosciuszko National Park.

As you would know, Kosciuszko National Park is a key component part of the Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves National Heritage place, which was included in the National Heritage List in 2008. The National Heritage place includes alpine parks and reserves in Victoria and the ACT, as well as in NSW. It is well known for its sensitive alpine and sub-alpine ecosystems, rich alpine flora, and cold-climate adapted, endemic and threatened animals. Some of these are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and are therefore Matters of National Environmental Significance, as is the entire National Heritage place.

I note that the Kosciuszko National Park Draft Wild Horse Management Plan 2016 was shaped by extensive community and stakeholder engagement, rigorous scientific advice from an Independent Technical Reference Group, assessment of the heritage and social significance of feral horses in the park, an aerial survey of feral horse numbers, and a review of past feral horse management programs. The draft plan makes it clear that some damage caused by feral horses, such as that to peatlands, is irreversible. The draft plan identifies the need for rapid and decisive control of feral horses in some parts of the Park, and proposes a significant reduction of the overall population to a lower, stable and sustainable level, to lessen the impact on the environment and other park values.

The ecosystems of the Australian Alps are under significant and increasing pressure from a range of introduced plants and animal species, including horses. Feral horses are also known to damage the historic and Aboriginal cultural values of Kosciuszko National Park.

I would be grateful for your advice as to how the NSW Government proposes to interact with the Australian Government, as well as with the Victorian and ACT governments, on the management of feral horses; and how the actions your government proposes to take will be sustainable and effective in supporting your obligations as manager of a component part of the National Heritage place.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JFrydenberg', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

JOSH FRYDENBERG

cc: The Hon John Barilaro MP, Deputy Premier of NSW

cc: The Hon Gabrielle Upton MP, Minister for the Environment, NSW



Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of New South Wales

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The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP
Minister for the Environment and Energy
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2607

Dear Minister, *Josh*

(VIP)

Thank you for your correspondence of 29 June 2018, regarding the *Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018*.

The Act provides a balanced framework for protecting the heritage values associated with wild horses and the environmental values of the Kosciuszko National Park.

A wild horse heritage management plan will be prepared under the Act by the Minister for the Environment, The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP. This will determine the on-ground techniques to be used to manage wild horses, the locations where sustainable populations are to be managed, and associated population targets.

Importantly, the NSW Government will engage with the Victorian and ACT governments, as well as the Australian Government, in preparing the wild horse heritage management plan.

As the Minister for the Environment is responsible for the preparation of the management plan, I have forwarded your letter to her for a more detailed response.

Thank you for taking the time to bring this issue to my attention.

Yours faithfully,

Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier

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CC: The Hon John Barilaro MP, Deputy Premier
The Hon Gabrielle Upton MP, Minister for the Environment and Heritage