

**Question on Notice
No. 496
Asked on 20 April 2005**

QUESTION:

MISS ROBERTS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PLANNING AND WOMEN (MS BOYLE) —

What is the intention of Queensland Parks and Wildlife with regard to the removal of the remaining brumbies on Fraser Island?

ANSWER:

Over the last two years, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) has been progressively removing brumbies from Fraser Island in accordance with its policies on feral animals and livestock on National Parks. It is the intention of the QPWS to remove the three remaining brumbies on the island.

The Commission of Inquiry into the Conservation, Management and Use of Fraser Island and the Great Sandy Region (1990) classifies brumbies as feral animals descended from stock first brought to the island in 1879. The Commission's report notes that "the horses damage coastal and escarpment habitats.....which reduces species diversity and facilitates the establishment of exotics on a broader scale, they affect the significance and fragility of the whole island". As a result, the *Great Sandy Region Management Plan 1994* (Section 1.12) states "feral horses will be removed from Fraser Island".

The presence of stallion brumbies at Orchid Beach has also resulted in public safety issues with the wild horses galloping through campgrounds and kicking vehicles.

The intention of the QPWS to remove the brumbies has been publicly known since 1994. It has the support of the Fraser Island World Heritage Area Scientific Advisory Committee and Community Advisory Committee (which includes traditional owner representatives).

Relocated brumbies will be in the care of a professional horse trainer/breeder with 30 years experience. The older animals will be allowed to live out their natural life in comfort and security. The young animals will be used for breeding purposes to maintain a genetic base from the wild, trained and used in the riding school, or trained and sold as riding horses.