

AVIATION STATE ENGAGEMENT FORUM

State - NSW

Submission date: 09/11/2021

TITLE	NSW National Parks, Aerial Pest Management (Shoot)
SUBMITTED BY	Andrew Michelin, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, South Coast Branch, andrew.michelin@environment.nsw.gov.au
CONSULTATION SUMMARY	NPWS Aerial Shoot within Key parks and reserves near the Nowra restricted airspace 31 January to 4 February 2022,
KEY ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aerial Shooting within NPWS land tenure only, near the Nowra restricted air space,• Low flying operations targeting pest animals
FEEDBACK TO	Andrew Michelin, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, South Coast Branch, andrew.michelin@environment.nsw.gov.au
CLOSE DATE	17 December 2021
ATTACHMENTS	Maps: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Zone A,2. Zone B and3. Zone N

OVERVIEW

As a means of consultation, HMAS Albatross, Nowra is identified as a stakeholder who may be affected by the upcoming aerial shoot on NPWS parks and reserves from 31 January 2022 through and including 4 February 2022.

Consultation and notification (email) have been sought with the point of contact at HMAS Albatross.

Further stakeholders have been notified by email about this program including, Goulburn Airport, Canberra Airport, Snowy Mountains Airport and Shoalhaven City Council.

NPWS Aerial Shooting is conducted by *Park Air*. A Squirrel B3 helicopter is used with a crew consisting of Pilot, Navigator, Shooter and on ground OIC keeping Flight following SAR.

All shooters are highly training and are part of the FFAST (Feral Animal Aerial Shooting Team) staff. The aircraft operates below 3500 ft and in daylight hours only. This operation is part of a long term pest animal control program that has been taking place since 1984. This program aims to take advantage of the 2020 bush fire activity and reduced canopy in the reserves listed.

PROPOSAL

Attached is the mapping for the next round of Post-Fire Aerial Shooting within the Shoalhaven and Illawarra Highlands section of South Coast Branch National Parks Area of Operations...Zones A, B and N.

Generally, we will be aiming for peak pest animal activity, for example flying/shooting early morning starts 05:00am and late arvo up until last light 18:30pm with another one or two runs throughout the daylight period.

There is nil expectations to fly within the Nowra HMAS Albatross restricted airspace as most of the pest animals we are targeting are further to the west of Morton NP and Bungonia State Conservation Area.