

Where The Water Starts

Indigenous and non-Indigenous people come together to defend the fragile ecology of the Kosciuszko National Park in the Australian Alps, after a decade of drought followed by the catastrophic fires of 2019-20.

ABOUT THE FILM

Listed as a national heritage area in 2008 the Australian Alps is the birthplace of some of our iconic rivers.

The trampling of hard hoofed animals is endangering the headwaters of the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers and the threatened native species of plants and mammals that live in this unique and sensitive habitat.

A law protecting feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park and the ongoing impacts of climate change are taking their toll.

Where The Water Starts reveals how these challenges are seen by Indigenous and non-Indigenous people who were born or live in the southern mountains, or who care deeply about it.

THE ISSUE

- It is estimated over 14,000 feral horses in the park are threatening the survival of 23 native plant species and 11 native animal species.
- Australia's alpine and sub-alpine terrain is extremely small amounting to 0.01 percent of our inhabited continent, the driest one on earth, yet it contributes almost 30% of the Murray-Darling Basin's water.
- Despite its significance as a water supply feral horses are degrading the headwaters of these major rivers, 'like elephants in stilettos'.

*'The land has it's own voice
if only people would stop and listen.'*

The film brings together respected Aboriginal community leaders as well as business people, a local farmer, a scientist, a former parks officer and an academic.

It explores our shared colonial and Indigenous histories and identities.

Revealing the beliefs of its core interviewees, it focuses on the themes of caring for Country as a shared responsibility of all Australians; that the best of Aboriginal connection and the best of regenerative science can work together for a better future for the alpine environment and the planet.

The film is at Post Production stage. We're inviting donors to help to complete the film.

Photography (top) Emily Presser-King (right) Dr Ken Green





IMPACT CAMPAIGN

WHERE THE WATER STARTS VISION

“We hope this film will inspire communities to take a different approach and work alongside Indigenous communities speaking out about environmental degradation and threats to life, water and country”. Filmmaker Amanda King

IMPACT GOALS

- ▶ To help protect the environment of the Australia's alpine areas by preserving the ecosystem of the Kosciuszko National Park
- ▶ To support other advocacy groups in their campaigns to protect the alpine environment
- To show the role of Indigenous leadership in the drive to protect our natural environment
- ▶ To shine a light on the environmental issue about water, a vital resource.

Funding Goal **\$ 50,000**

Archival Fees	16,500
Digital Graphics & pick ups	8,500
Online Edit & Sound mix	10,000
Legals & Insurances	5,000
Social Impact Campaign	10,000

Raised so far **47,635**

BECOME PART OF THE TEAM

and help finish the film

After 2 years of production we are almost there. Our goal is to have it seen nationally and made widely available for use in education.

Your financial donation will help to complete this vital new documentary and bring it to the screen.

ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

The current situation which has allowed feral animal numbers in Kosci to escalate has intensified the urgency of the issue.

Our Impact campaign will provide the tools that communities and NGOs need to start discussions and find solutions to support those campaigning to address the issue.

By showing the film across both urban and rural communities the film will be a catalyst for change.

Develop a clear pathway for audiences of the film to respond meaningfully following the screening.

Work with a specialist educational producer to produce an education package and target higher education institutions to use the film in their curriculum.

DONATIONS

This project has been approved by the Documentary Australia Foundation for philanthropic support with all donations fully tax deductible.

All donors will be acknowledged in the film's credits.

To donate Click <https://documentaryaustralia.com.au/project/where-the-water-starts/>

Thank you – the Where The Water Starts team.

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