

Proposed Sydney Zoo

Social Impact Assessment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Social Impact Assessment of the proposed Sydney Zoo.

“SIA has assessed the social, education and conservation programs carried out in the locality including those of Featherdale Wildlife Park (Featherdale) and details potentially positive and adverse social impacts to these programs from the proposed Sydney Zoo.”

Scenario B - The Sydney Zoo Scenario. Social impacts

“Sydney Zoo is approved and Featherdale subsequently suffers financial duress that prevents it from operating programs, or Featherdale exits the market

Offers significant social benefits, aligns with and realises relevant policy aims and has some potentially adverse social impacts that are likely to be offset by Sydney Zoo and other zoos and wildlife parks across Sydney and Australia

Empirical evidence indicates it is the least likely Scenario.”

I. I am concerned that the above scenario, over time, may/will in fact materialise. The proposed site for this new zoo, for non-native animals, is simply much too close to the existing excellent, Featherdale Wildlife Park, that caters for our native fauna, and will likely badly impact on their local and overseas visitor numbers thus reducing their operating revenue/ income leading to the possible closure of Featherdale park.

II. I find it difficult to understand why this zoo is being considered, as It will occupy land that was formally set aside for recreation parklands and habitat for native animals.

The zoo is proposed to be built where water flow can, and will, likely carry exotic seeds, of imported feed grasses, that will ultimately add to the burden of unwanted weeds that will then need to be removed, by volunteer bush regenerators.

III. The proposed zoo is to be built on portion of land that had been improved by voluntary bush regenerators, over many years, perhaps, a decade ago, and part of that land is now proposed to be now removed.

Surely, there could not be a bigger insult to the memory of those former hard-working western Sydney community volunteers, who laboured for so long, and by dint of whose efforts, improved the land that is, now, proposed to be occupied by a corral for exotic animals?

This, seemingly, is insensitive, ungrateful, abject waste and disrespectful of the communities volunteer conservation efforts.

IV. I am much concerned about the likely impact, and/or survival of long-standing, nearby, Featherdale Wildlife Park's business model. Featherdale has a long-standing strong history of providing habitat, care, and education about native fauna and the habitat and feeding needs of our native animals. Such work is much too important to be ever be put at risk by the proposed exotic animal zoo.

Surely, the proposed Sydney zoo, is a zoo too many in the proposed location?

V. Employment measures. I will not comment on the proposed number of disparate jobs to be created by the proposed zoo, other than to observe that many new ventures appear to greatly overstate the number of jobs that they will create.

One need only look at the wildly excessive employment figures that have been disputed, and were recently, bandied around, and quoted in the media, for the proposed Adani Carmichael Coal Mine.

VI.

VII. "Overall assessment

VIII. Having considered the social benefits and costs of these Scenarios, the SIA concludes the approval of Sydney Zoo offers a net positive social outcome.

IX. In circumstances where Sydney Zoo may contribute to closure of Featherdale programs (i.e. the Sydney Zoo Scenario), the empirical evidence reviewed and stakeholder engagement identifies potentially adverse social impacts are, for the most part, insignificant and temporary in nature.

X. Subject to particular measures, the identified potentially adverse social impacts of this Scenario can likely be mitigated, and most of these measures are already in place. A number of further measures have been recommended to minimise these potential impacts.

The overall assessment of this proposal appears somewhat glib and baseless.

How could it be a positive social outcome if such an important long-standing park, such as Featherdale, was forced to close, simply because an exotic animal zoo was granted licence to build much too close to the

existing long-established native fauna park?

Pasted below are a few samples of the large bank of stories that are readily available available, and may be found upon an internet search, about wild animals escaping from 'secure' enclosures and then, sadly, being killed by a marksman or worse, killing citizens who are unfortunately happen to be in the wrong place, at the time of the wild animal's escape.

Wolf shot dead after escape from zoo 'climbed over underpowered ...
www.telegraph.co.uk › New

2 days ago - A wolf shot dead after escaping from a zoo may have climbed over a defective ... to five cubs this year, was killed by a keeper after being discovered outsider ... that no animal lover should have to make Cotswold Wildlife Park.

Escaped zoo tiger kills man in Tbilisi, Georgia - CNN.com
edition.cnn.com/2015/06/17/europe/georgia-tbilisi-zoo-floods-death/index.htm

Jun 17, 2015 - Police have shot dead a tiger that killed a man in Tbilisi, Georgia, ... The tiger was among the hundreds of wild animals that escaped from a ...

Ohio animals killed: Lions, tigers shot dead after escaping from US ...
www.dailymail.co.uk/.../Ohio-animals-killed-Lions-tigers-shot-dead-escaping-US-zoo...

Oct 20, 2011 - Sheriff's deputies shot nearly 50 wild animals - including 18 rare ... grizzly bear and two monkeys - were captured and taken to the Columbus Zoo. ... Dead: Authorities are still trying to capture or kill all the animals that escaped.

Zoo animals on the loose and deaths feared after Georgia floods ...
<https://www.theguardian.com> › World › Georgia

Jun 14, 2015 - Escapedhippopotamus shown cornered in Tbilisi square, as devastating floods reportedly kill eight people and wild animals escape from city ...

Georgia police shoot tiger that killed man after zoo escape | World ...
<https://www.theguardian.com> › World › Georgia.

Jun 17, 2015 - Animal that escaped in Tbilisi after severe flooding is shot dead but officials say otheranimals might be on the loose.

The Crazy True Story of the Zanesville Zoo Escape | GQ

www.gq.com/story/terry-thompson-ohio-zoo-massacre-chris-heath-gq-february-201

Feb 6, 2012 - The body count: fifty exotic animals, one man. ... The miracle of the great Zanesville zoo escape—which began last fall when a ... We sent Chris Heath to Zanesville, Ohio, to find out where the wild things are—and what the hell they're doing there See, the guys who shot expert got killed in Vietnam.

Owner kills self, sets wild animals free in Ohio | New York Post
nypost.com/2011/10/19/owner-kills-self-sets-wild-animals-free-in-ohio

Oct 19, 2011 - ZANESVILLE, Ohio — Sheriff's deputies shot nearly 50 wild animals ... bear and two monkeys — were captured and taken to the Columbus Zoo. ... had received numerous complaints since 2004 about animals escaping onto ...

Lion escapes from cage and kills camel - YouTube

▶ 0:43

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRNkVAXs-SA>

Feb 2, 2012 - Uploaded by ODN

A lion has escaped from its cage at a zoo in Indonesia and attacked two camels, ... WATCH- When Animals ...

San Francisco Zoo tiger attacks - Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Zoo_tiger_attacks

There have been two tiger attacks at the San Francisco Zoo, both involving a female Siberian tiger named Tatiana (June 27, 2003 – December 25, 2007). In the first incident, a zookeeper was bitten on the arm during a public feeding. In the second incident, one person was killed and two others were injured The attack was the first visitor fatality due to an animal escape at a member ...

Zanesville Animal Massacre Included 18 Rare Bengal Tigers - ABC ...
abcnews.go.com/US/zanesville-animal-massacre-included-18-rare-bengal.../story?...

Oct 19, 2011 - During the night of chaos, an escaped lion killed a monkey, and bears ... ABC News'wildlife expert Jack Hanna, who advised Lutz during the crisis, ... three leopards and two monkeys -- are being taken to the Columbus Zoo.

Conclusion:

The most dire social impact would, surely, be that some hapless local residents(s) or visitors, may be hunted down and injured or killed by escaping wild animals that logic would suggest, should never have been considered/approved for such a closely settled urban area, in the first instance.

Given that the proposed Sydney Zoo is situated within the midst of an area that is close to homes, schools and where residents walk, I am most concerned about the proposed siting of this project. This proposed Zoo appears, to me, to present many problematic issues that cannot be resolved, and would be better considered for an expansive area in a suitable, well located, country site.

I strongly believe that this Sydney Zoo proposal would, likely, fail reasonable and responsible Social Impact assessments and is potentially too hazardous, to be considered, for its proposed western Sydney urban location.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, further, on the Social Impact Assessment of the proposed Sydney Zoo.