

Children in Western Sydney's futures sacrificed

so Sydney can have **three Zoo's!**

"No one outside seems to realise that the services offered by Featherdale – offer our children Hope!"

"At Featherdale, they learn skills specific to our NATIVE animals, which leads to careers in animal related fields – they will NOT get this from the West African Plains ZOO!"

"Most employers want some level of experience when hiring staff – Featherdale offers multiple opportunities to thousands of the youth, especially in relation to native animals"

Facts

- ▶ Featherdale holds **highest trust rating**
- ▶ Featherdale **inspires our youth**
- ▶ Featherdale **provide opportunities**
- ▶ A new zoo – would most likely force Featherdale to reduce their overheads meaning our programs would suffer or they will be forced out of the market meaning our programs would disappear.
- ▶ **The new zoo will reduce** our children's work experience options
- ▶ **The new zoo will reduce** our children's career choices
- ▶ The choice is in the hands of the Planning Assessment Commission and the Government

Reducing Children's Options

- Featherdale's NSW curriculum aligned programs provide hands on learning opportunities, not available in classrooms
 - Onsite education program is provide to over 22 000 students
 - When schools are unable to take their students to the Wildlife Park, Featherdale take the animals to the school's, educating thousands by this method too.
- Tertiary, volunteer and student placement programs also provide thousands of opportunities for students.

Time spent at Featherdale has inspired NSW students into
animal related career paths

Removing these programs has the potential to significantly reduce options for millions of children over many years to come.

Featherdale holds Highest “Trust” Rating

Offsite delivery of education programs is decreasing. Risk assessments are conducted, children's physical and emotional wellbeing is at the forefront of everyone's mind.

- Featherdale Wildlife Park hold one of the highest ‘trust’ ratings, based on the actual program, along with the procedures and protocols that have been developed and refined during the last 20 years of delivery.
- Speaking to principals and parents in the past 2 weeks around the possible demise of Featherdale programs, has been met with strong feelings of disappointment, **followed by resentment toward the new zoo – which will deliver LESS for our students.**

No Comparison of Education Programs

Sydney Zoo confirmed they will provide a reduced native animal population compared to Featherdale's largest collection of Australian Fauna in the world.

- They will be providing a program, however it will not be at the capacity of native programs that we currently have available through Featherdale.
- Based on the number of staff the new zoo's program will not have the capacity for delivery that Featherdale provide.
- The new zoo's program will resemble the one offered by Taronga zoo, which covers the African animals that the new zoo has stated it is bringing in.

“The New Zoo will never be able to replicate the level of native fauna education students currently receive, as the new zoo is aiming at African animals, not Australian!”

Featherdale Inspires!

- More coastal communities turn out surfers or sailors than country communities, simply because they have the beaches to inspire those job options.
- Featherdale is the **“beach”** for Western Sydney in a sea of warehousing and manual labour job options.
- If you take away the beach – you take away the surfers, sailors.....

“Featherdale closing will impact multiple related fields of study!”

“Why do you want to reduce our children’s options?”

Work Experience Opportunities Cancelled

- Work experience & placement hours for high school and tertiary students are extremely important
- Volunteering for students considering a career working with animals

To be able to offer these opportunities,

Staff must be available

The new zoo website states they will have 60 staff, versus

Featherdale currently having a staff on 114...

***The number of opportunities for our children will be heavily
reduced***

Our plea for our children's futures

We implore you to consider the impact of allowing this Zoo to be built here, for our children, their children and the many generations that follow.

To quote Mr Spock:

Logic clearly dictates that "the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few!"

Many : Students & families and communities who benefit from these programs

Few : Businessmen who are building the new zoo

Statements of support

Individual statements of support can be supplied if requested from more than 500 school communities sourced through P&C's.

Including members on the Board of Directors for the National Peak Parent Advocacy group – The Australian Council of State School Organisations, which is based in Penrith NSW.