

Futures Sacrificed

As seen through the eyes of Parents & Citizens of
New South Wales

"For the government to consider reducing options for our children's future's is an absolute disgrace. The cruelty in denying innocent children these opportunities is truly beyond comprehension. The significant social impact this will have on those particularly in the low socio economic area of Western Sydney will be catastrophic and those allowing this to happen, should consider themselves positively the worst, for destroying something created and refined over twenty years – with the full knowledge that any offering this new zoo could possibly produce, would be substandard and inferior.



Futures Sacrificed for Big Business

As seen through the eyes of Parents & Citizens of New South Wales

Human and Animal Interaction Benefits

During the last decade, it has become widely accepted that animal education programs has a multitude of positive effects on humans.

Among the well-documented effects of human & animal interactions benefits:

- improvement of social attention, behavior
- interpersonal interaction, and mood
- reduction of self-reported fear and anxiety
- enhanced empathy

Inspired students

We had listed four identifiable shifts in students cognitive, behavioral and emotive engagement with their schools, following their participation of the animal education programs and their interest in an animal related career.

- ability see the relevance of school and willingness to engage
- a broadening of perspectives and ability to see opportunities
- ability to see their own strengths
- increased participation with school life

New School in Western Sydney

It was expected that the Featherdale Wildlife Park education programs would become an asset to the new school in Western Sydney, which will have a focus on students considering careers in agriculture, veterinary medicine and related fields.

Animals vs Ipods



Chairperson of the NSW Department of Education's Schools Animal Care and Ethics Committee advised:

That many of our students have never owned an animal or had anything to do with animals.

This creates challenges as ignorance, fear and unfamiliarity that can lead students to treat animals inappropriately and make inaccurate assumptions about them.

Many school aged Australians are more at home with computers, DVDs, iPods and mobile phones than they are with animals.

Therefore, education and exposure to animals is becoming increasingly more important.

Social Impact

Fundraising

Parents & Citizen Associations raise approximately 54 million per year. This money contributes directly to the schools they support.

Donations from Featherdale increase the value of raffles by several hundred dollars per school.

Questions to consider:

- “Can Featherdale continue to support fundraising efforts to charities when they have competition?”
- “Will the reduced prize value of the raffles, reduce the income?”

Whilst recognising that the new zoo may offer donations, we do not hold high hopes.

What we do know is that, the people wanting to build the new zoo, were the proprietors of Sydney Attractions limited. That organisation is on our list of least likely to donate to a P&C.

Following the consultation of over 200 P&C’s - no one can recall receiving donation’s from their group of tourist attractions: Madame Tussauds, The Sydney Tower Eye, Manly Sealife Sanctuary, Wildlife Sydney Zoo & Sydney Sealife Aquarium.

Socially Responsible

Without fanfare, Featherdale regularly celebrates the work of volunteers, inviting P&C families to the park for fun filled days, in recognition of the contribution these parents make to their school communities.

