

Dear PAC representative's

Although the closing date was the 26th of July, I was informed that late submissions can be sent to this email address, to be considered by the Commissioners reviewing the Sydney Zoo proposal.

I received this information from NSW P&C Federation President - Mrs Susie Boyd, following a conversation with David Mooney of the Planning Assessment Commission. I am aware that no 'exact extension time' was available, therefore it would be appreciated if you can advise me whether it will be considered or not.

I would like to raise the fact that the short time frame offered for res-ponders does create an imbalance of power, where those who have the most to lose, also have the least time in which to form a solid defence. I urge you to undertake a review of your processes and procedures to ensure that ALL citizens of NSW can participate equitably in the process of Planning, within NSW.

From the social impact assessment for the proposed Sydney Zoo, there seems to be an almost flippant response to the concerns of my fellow parents.

Multiple concerns raised in December of 2016, at the Rooty Hill RSL, in relation to this development remain unanswered, and no action was taken by the social impact assessment team to question, clarify or consider the concerns put forward by the parents and citizens directly, which is another concern in itself.

The context in which the concerns were put forward, is missing, the report appears to have cherry picked various aspects regarding what the Featherdale programs provide, and it is factually incorrect. An important omission would be the program that takes animals to the high schools at no cost. I would be interested in seeing a risk management plan on taking the exotic animals out.

There are references to the Premier's Priorities, suggestions that programs run by other organisations like Calmsley Hill, should be compared to those run by Featherdale and that children participating in the programs in Featherdale, could undertake similar study in at Taronga Zoo, Western Plains Zoo or Australian Wildlife park to name a few.

1. The Premier has stated that EDUCATION is at the **FRONT AND CENTRE** of her governments priorities.
2. To compare the Calmsley Hill working farm, to the Featherdale Wildlife Park is to compare apples to oranges or koalas to lambs.... #redundant
3. To suggest that Western Sydney children can take up work experience at Taronga, Dubbo or the Central Coast as easy as at Featherdale - shows a complete lack of competence in the authors knowledge of the processes, requirements and work involved in both attempting to get into these programs and especially the work involved if you are lucky enough to be chosen.

With regard to the suggestion that the students surveyed would rather visit an exotic animal as opposed to an indigenous animal, and working on that basis and with the understanding, as per the tendered documents, that the Sydney Zoo will predominately be showing exotic animals - **I question the Sydney Zoo's ability to run similar education programs for our youth.**

The authors of the social impact statement appear not to consider that many students completing work experience at Featherdale, do so for the experience of working with indigenous animals, as a stepping stone for careers, both inside and outside the zoo industry, eg: in conservation, wildlife rehabilitation, veterinary science or even animal husbandry. **Working only with exotic animals will clearly reduce student's options in where they can use their work experience skills**

The scale and significance of the work provided by the Featherdale education staff, cannot be overstated, that is why we have made the effort to put a spotlight on the dedication and quality teaching of these educators, that has been ingrained and cultivated over many years.

We must also acknowledge the successes of past students, who have gone on to become successful wildlife rehabilitation officers with WIRES, multiple staffers within the Australian National Parks, RSPCA, Taronga Zoo and not to forget those who are currently employed by Featherdale, who began as students many years ago themselves.

We are not against growth; indeed, I believe another Zoo, further South would be lovely, what we are afraid of is the impact that this new establishment will have on the Education offerings our children currently receive.

The money made by Featherdale currently from tourists, provides the income to give us these programs. If the government allow this new zoo to be created where they are suggesting, you will reduce their ability to make money and with reduced resources, programs will minimise, and/or become more expensive.

Please consider all ramifications of approving this enterprise.

Rima Gordon

Secretary

South East & South West Sydney Alliance of P&C Associations

& parent of students in western Sydney public schools