

# **OBJECTION -Taronga Zoo Sky Safari Submissions**

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Clearly a replacement for the current cable car from the wharf to the main Zoo entrance is necessary. However, a Disney style Sky Safari tourist attraction is questionable.

My concerns are as follows.

## **THE STRUCTURE IS A VISUAL INVASION**

The structure is far too high, up to the height of a 10-storey building. This will be intrusive and a permanent scar on the Sydney Harbour landscape. The pylons towering over the tree canopy will destroy the bushland look from many vantage points all around the unique Sydney Harbour - from the Harbour itself, nearby Northern Suburbs, the Eastern Suburbs and indeed from the Opera House. It will have an impact on the World Heritage Listed Opera House.

The visual impact at the height proposed will not only be from the pylons and cables. There will 25 large gondolas designed for wheelchair and pram access continually moving up and down the hillside. This will be a very ugly and intrusive development.

We are told that the pylons must be the proposed height to support the larger cable cars that allow access for prams and wheelchairs. However, it is possible to have cable cars that allow access for prams and wheelchairs without overwhelming the headland, destroying more greenery and views from the harbour.

The Harbour is the Jewel in the Crown of Sydney and its significance is national. Its pre-eminence should not be usurped.

The pylons can and should be reduced in height.

## **IT'S A DISNEY STYLE RIDE ON WHAT IS A MODEST SIZED SITE.**

Clearly the proposal's purpose is to be a tourist magnet, offering views of Sydney Harbour and indeed the NSW coastline from the highest points of the safari.

In my view the proposed "sky safari" should be to provide a rapid and efficient means of transporting people from Athol Wharf to the summit of the Zoo.

Views to the mountains and the Heads are promoted in the report as an attraction. The proposed design is based on the Zoo's desire to attract patrons for a tourist experience. This goes beyond its role as a useful transportation link within the Zoo.

## **OPERATING HOURS ARE QUESTIONABLE**

It is also proposed that the hours will be extended beyond the present "opening hours" of the Zoo. The proposed operating hours can be as early as 5 am and as late as midnight. The impact of light moving over the canopy all day and half the night, given the proposed hours of operation for special occasions, is a loss to the Harbour and an intrusion on residents.

## **Who knows what affect it will have on the animals housed in the zoo?**

The increase in the footprint of the lower station with a new enlarged building will cause associated loss of vegetation. This is of concern and will also have a significant impact on views from the Harbour. It will be obtrusive and very visible. It is proposed to be so close to the Harbour that the impact will never be mitigated by trees.

It is suggested that the Sky Safari will necessitate **the loss of more than 60 trees and impact up to 100 trees.**

## **OTHER NEGATIVE IMPACTS**

Noise will also be increased into the night on a regular basis.

Traffic through the already clogged Mosman streets will be impacted.

I urge that the plan be reviewed to reduce the impact that this proposed development of Sky Safari will have on the scenic heritage protections for Sydney Harbour.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Goodsir

9 June 2025