

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water



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Letter uploaded to the Major Projects Planning Portal

Advice on Environmental Impact Statement – State Significant Development

Proposal: Taronga Zoo Sky Safari

Major Project reference: SSD-46807958

Received: 24 September 2024

Dear Ms Nowland,

Thank you for your referral dated 24 September 2024 inviting comments from the Heritage Council of NSW on the above State Significant Development (SSD) proposal.

The following reports were considered in our assessment:

- Relevant sections of *Taronga Zoo Sky Safari Environmental Impact Statement SSD-46807958*, Urbis, September 2024, in particular the following appendices:
- Appendix AA: *Heritage Impact Statement Taronga Sky Safari SSD-46807958 Taronga Zoo*, Urbis, 25 July 2024;
- Appendix BB: *Historical Archaeological Impact Assessment Taronga Zoo Sky Safari*, Urbis, 18 July 2024;
- Appendix G: Architectural drawings titled *Taronga Zoo Sky Safari*, Scott Carver, SSDA Submission, August 2024; and
- Appendix L1: *Visual Impact Assessment Taronga Zoo Sky Safari*, Ethos Urban, 6 August 2024.

As delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW, we provide the following comments:

- There would be no direct heritage impacts on an item of State heritage significance as Taronga Zoo is a locally listed item. No part of the project area is listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR).
- The proposed development would be visible from various locations around Sydney Harbour that include SHR listed places/items. The Visual Impact Analysis has assessed that the proposal would result in a low visual impact from the Sydney Opera House and Darling Point, and moderate visual impact from areas in closer vicinity to the project area such as Bradleys Head. Heritage NSW supports this assessment and considers that the proposal would result in a minimal impact on the significance of SHR items within the view catchment of the proposal.
- The Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) has assessed that the heritage impacts of the proposal are acceptable. Heritage NSW generally supports this assessment but have concerns regarding the potential heritage impacts of the proposed Maintenance and Storage Building (MSB). The MSB would be located outside of the zoo's perimeter wall in the vicinity of the zoo's main entrance. It would enclose part the perimeter stone wall, which is listed on the zoo's Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register. We consider that there is a risk that the MSB would detract from the external presentation of the zoo and potentially cause damage to the perimeter stone wall. We would appreciate an opportunity to review and comment on the detailed design of the MSB and have made recommendations in this regard in Attachment A.
- The Historical Archaeological Impact Assessment (HAIA) has assessed that the proposed works would be unlikely to impact any archaeological remains. The HAIA recommends Chance Finds and Human Remains procedures be implemented during construction. Heritage NSW supports these recommendations.

Please refer to Attachment A for our recommendations.

As Taronga Zoo is a local heritage item, and other local items are in the vicinity, advice should be sought from the relevant local council.

If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact Anna Simanowsky, Senior Assessments Officer at Heritage NSW on (02) 9873 8500 or heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Nicole Davis

Nicole Davis
Strategic Manager – Major Projects
Heritage NSW
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW
21 October 2024

Attachment A - Taronga Zoo Sky Safari (SSD-46807958)

Heritage NSW Recommendations

Heritage NSW supports the recommendations and mitigation measures proposed in Section 6.4 of the HIS and Section 12.0 of the VIA. We make the following additional recommendations.

1. General

- a) A Construction Management Plan for the project should specifically address the protection of the zoo's heritage fabric and elements during demolition and construction. It should consider both direct and indirect (e.g. vibration) impacts, and methodologies to minimise risks related to the removal and erection of oversized items such as pylons.
- b) A heritage specialist should provide advice to inform the Construction Management Plan, including clear identification of fabric/items of heritage significance and recommendations for exclusion zones.
- c) A photographic archival recording should be prepared prior to the commencement of works. The archival recording should include all areas that will be physically impacted by the proposed works.
- d) All construction personnel should undertake a heritage induction to understand the heritage significance of the site and heritage management procedures such as the Chance Finds Procedure.
- e) Sandstone excavated at the bottom station should be salvaged for reuse within the zoo. The proposed method of excavation should facilitate the salvage of stone in a form that meets the requirements of the zoo (eg large blocks).

2. Maintenance and Storage Building

- f) The detailed design of the Maintenance and Storage Building (MSB) should be submitted to Heritage NSW for review and comment. The detailed design should demonstrate:
 - that options to minimise the overall dimensions of the MSB have been considered.
 - that the facade treatment is appropriate to its context as external to the zoo perimeter wall.
 - that consideration has been given to reducing the perceived scale of the building through facade treatment or other means such as landscaping.
 - that the detailing of the MSB at the junction with the stone wall appropriately acknowledges the stone wall as a historic marker of the zoo's perimeter.
 - that the MSB is structurally independent of the stone wall, and that it will not impact on the structural integrity of the wall including any proposed footings.
 - provision for any measures to stabilise, strengthen or protect the stone wall, particularly in the location of the proposed new opening.
 - that the MSB would be 'reversible' and could be removed in the future without damaging the heritage stone wall.
- g) The proposed new opening in the northern perimeter stone wall should be constructed by an experienced heritage stonemason.