

Our ref: HMS ID 10381

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## Advice on Response to Submission – State Significant Development

**Proposal:** Taronga Zoo Sky Safari

**Major Project reference:** SSD-46807958

**Received:** 14 May 2025

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Dear Mrs De Silva,

Thank you for your referral dated 14 May 2025 inviting the Heritage Council of NSW to provide advice on the above State Significant Development (SSD) Response to Submissions and Amendment Report (RtS).

We have considered the following documents in preparing our advice:

- Relevant sections of *Taronga Zoo Sky Safari EIS and Amendment Report RTS Revision 2*, Urbis, April 2025; in particular the following appendices:
- Appendix AA: *Taronga Zoo Sky Safari Statement of Heritage Impact (SHI) RTS Revision 2*, Urbis, April 2025;
- Appendix BB: *Taronga Zoo Sky Safari Historical Archaeological Impact Assessment (HAIA) RTS Revision 2*, Urbis, April 2025;
- Appendix F: *Taronga Zoo Sky Safari Design Report RTS Revision 2*, Urbis, April 2025;
- Appendix G: *Taronga Zoo Sky Safari Architectural Plans RTS Revision 2*, Studio SC, April 2025; and
- Appendix L: *Taronga Zoo Sky Safari Visual Impact Assessment RTS Revision 2*, Ethos Urban, April 2025.

The following advice is provided to address the applicant's response to the heritage issues raised, and in response to the proposed SSD amendments:

1. The mitigation measures and recommendations made in Section 6.4 of the SHI are generally supported.

## 2. Maintenance and Storage Building (MSB) and sandstone wall

- a. It is noted that the MSB facade treatment has been amended to interpret the line of the adjacent sandstone wall and to provide an enhanced response to its context. The amended facade treatment is supported.
- b. The design report states that the size of the MSB has been minimised according to its functional requirements. We recommend that further ways to reduce the size of the MSB be considered where possible, including potential shared use of the covered queueing area for gondola storage.
- c. It is recommended that fixings into the sandstone wall be avoided. The MSB should be designed and built to be structurally independent of the stone wall, and so that it could be removed in the future without damage to the wall.
- d. The junction of the MSB walls to the stone wall should be detailed to incorporate a visual separation device to allow the stone wall to remain legible as a separate structure.
- e. The MSB structure (including steel columns and footings) is to be designed and built to avoid physical impacts to the stone wall and its footings.

## 3. Bottom Station

- a. It is recommended that the extent of sandstone excavation around the bottom station be minimised, and that excavation be undertaken using methodologies that would avoid impacts to surrounding vegetation.
- b. It is understood that a portion of the sandstone boundary wall is to be demolished on the western side of the bottom station. Measures should be taken to protect the retained section of wall from damage and methodologies for sandstone excavation should be adopted to ensure that the retained part of the wall remains stable and intact.
- c. The enclosing envelope of the bottom station has substantially increased in size as part of the modified design making the structure more prominent from the east and south-east. We recommend that consideration be given to reducing the perceived bulk and prominence of the bottom station.

## 4. Historical Archaeology

We note that the assessment and recommendations made in the HAIA remain unchanged from the EIS stage. Our previous comments regarding historical archaeology remain unchanged.

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](mailto:heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely,

*Alison Lamond*

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Heritage NSW

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**As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW**

10 June 2026