

Internal Zoo Planting

Planting is central to the design of Sydney Zoo. The underlying ambition is to create distinct vegetated communities which will form the bases of the varying habitat zones that make up animal grouping categories.

Three distinct vegetation zones have been designed to define habitat areas. They consist of the South East Asian / African tropical zone, African grasslands zone and an endemic Australian native zone.

The main entrance area to the zoo will be planted with a lush variety of tropical trees and understory plants, marking the entrance to the south east Asian tropical primate area. Within this zone, species such as *Rhapsis excelsa*, *Thysanolaena maxima* and *Bambusa textilis gracilis* will create shade and screening and evoke a tropical atmosphere, similar to that which would be experienced in the native habitats of the exhibited animals.

To the east of the entrance zone, the 'Australian Habitat Walk' will feature a rich mix of both endemic tree and understory species as well as native bush food and bird attracting plants. The planting in this area will complement the educational and aboriginal interpretive programs that will run within the zoo's Australia area. A mix of 'fodder plants' will be planted for Koalas to browse. These specific range of eucalypts will be harvested for Koala feeding, mitigating the need to bring food in from off-site.

The 'African Grasslands' to the west of the site will be shaped through planting a mix of dramatic exotic tree species, mixed with native and exotic grasses and understory shrubs. Species such as *Aloe barberae*, *Dracaena draco* will mark the transition into the domain of the African animal exhibits, creating interest and delight.

Picnic areas will be adorned with large transplanted Fig trees which will create much needed shade and become a feature element of each of these spaces.



Adelaide Zoo_Tropical Area



Rhapsis excelsa



Brachychiton rupestris



Aloe Ferox



Aspidistra eliator

Perimeter Planting

Native bushland regeneration and habitat creation are core to the planting strategy of Sydney ZOO. New areas have been established at the perimeter of the park to become new native regeneration zones that will also be fitted with nesting boxes and alike to encourage use by native fauna.

Perimeter planting will also be used as a strategy to link currently isolated remnant vegetation zones, augmenting and improving the quality of these existing areas.

These areas will be planted using endemic tree and understory species including *Melaleuca decora*, *Bursaria spinosa*, *Daviesia ulicifolia*, *Eucalyptus amlifolia*, *Heakea sericea* and *Melaleuca styphelioides* among others, creating a rich and vibrant Native environment.



Lizard Log Playground - Sydney



Bursaria spinosa



Daviesia ulicifolia



Eucalyptus amlifolia



Melaleuca styphelioides

Carpark Planting

Native trees will be an important design feature of the Sydney Zoo car-park, providing much needed shade for pedestrians and reinforcing traffic movement.

A mix of native tree species including *Corymbia citriodora* ‘sensus’ and *Cupaniopsis anacardioides* will add to the surrounding native bushland feel of the site and also provide new habitat for native birds and animals.

A mix of native understory planting will include species such as *Casuarina glauca* ‘Cousin It’, *Lomandra filiformis* and *Poa poiformis* ‘Kingsdale’ will create a lush green and welcoming entrance zone.



Harold Park - Sydney



Corymbia citriodora



Casuarina glauca 'Cousin It'



Cupaniopsis anacardioides



Carex appressa

Materiality

Sydney Zoo will be comprised of a palette of natural materials, with a focus on timber, crushed sandstone and concrete. Pedestrian pathways will be a mixture of hard wearing, exposed aggregate insitu concrete and crushed sandstone.

Balustrades and handrails will be complemented with timber lean rails and glass viewing zones.

Comfortable seating, shade canopies and misting stations will be constructed from a warm palette of timber and bamboo to create a natural bushland atmosphere in the park.

A number of screening techniques for back of house areas, service roads, fencing and non-viewing areas of exhibits will be used. Bamboo, planting and timber will be used prolifically to hide these elements from visitors to Sydney Zoo.



Indicative Image - Australian Habitat Walk

Heritage Interpretation

Aboriginal and non Aboriginal heritage reports have been prepared by Artefact. Opportunities for interpretation have been identified in the report and relate to:

- Heritage Cumberland Plain Woodland
- Aboriginal hunting and gathering in the area
- Traditional endemic food plants
- Traditional tools crafted from local plant materials
- Land uses on the site post 1840's

Lighting

Lighting will be designed to comply with Australian standards. A detailed lighting strategy has been prepared by LAS consultants outlining lighting requirements in different areas of the zoo.

Safety

Fencing of all animal exhibits will be designed to comply with standards set out by the NSW department of Primary industries as well as being approved by Exhibited Animals Australia, ensuring the utmost safety for all patrons visiting Sydney ZOO.

Signage and Wayfinding

A detailed signage and wayfinding strategy has been prepared by Urban and Public. This report outlines the need for both pedestrian wayfinding signage as well as statutory vehicle and emergency signage.

Water strategy

A detailed site wide water strategy has been prepared by Lyndsay Dynon. This report identifies water re-use opportunities, water reticulation and run off systems to comply with water sensitive urban design guidelines outlined by Blacktown city council.

Toilets and Amenities

Toilets and amenities will be placed in strategic locations around the zoo, generally located in the vicinity of picnic lunch areas. Both the restaurant and entrance building will contain generous amounts of toilets and amenities. Picnic areas will be fitted with simple kiosks, water bubblers and shade canopies, providing visitors with drinks, snacks and shady seating locations.



3. The Proposal

The Sydney Zoo masterplan has been designed to create exciting and unique experiences which enable visitors to have close and profound experiences with animals. Core design principles relating to animal welfare and creating immersive experiences have been fundamental in influencing the layout of Sydney Zoo. Large animal enclosures have shaped the design of the masterplan which aims to create a clear and simple pedestrian route to walk and view animals.

Unique viewing experiences such the 'Elevated walkway' and Australian Habitat Walk, will be exciting spaces where intimate animal viewing will be possible. Picnic and Play areas will add to the experience creating spaces where you can relax and enjoy the atmosphere in a park-like setting. The design of Sydney Zoo aims to be inclusive, providing spaces for families, school groups and tourists among others.

A rich palette of native Australian planting will add to the experience of the zoo, augmenting its bushland setting. Lush tropical species through the centre of the zoo will transform this area of the site into a tropical jungle, creating an atmosphere of delight and complementing the tropical animal habitat zone.

The Sydney Zoo will provide visitors with a fun and educational day out, creating a unique destination for Western Sydney.

Landscape Areas

The Sydney Zoo will be made up of a number of distinct precincts:

- Carpark / Entrance zone
- Primate Boulevard
- Picnic and Play areas
- Australian Habitat Walk
- Pedestrian Walkways
- Elevated Walkway
- Show Arena
- Wetland zone
- Back of House areas
- Buffer Native Vegetation



1.Car Park / Entrance zone

The Sydney Zone car-park will comprise of 2 main areas. The main entrance asphalted zone and the secondary gravel area. Combined they will provide space for 1300 cars to park with additional space to park Buses and mini buses.

The car-park has been designed to have a clear and simple layout that will provide an easy journey from the car-park entry to the Sydney Zoo admission building. Pedestrian pathways have been designed to move people away from traffic, leading to a simple journey towards the entrance.

Planting will be a feature element of the car-park design. Providing much needed shade and amenity. Native tree species such as *Corymbia citriodora* 'sensus' and *Cupaniopsis anacardioides* will add to the existing bushland feel of the site. An understory planting of native species will complement and add to the car-park design.

A detailed report has been prepared by GTA consulting, identifying visitation modelling, transportation requirements and traffic impacts on existing and new roads.