

Sky Safari

It seems that the impetus for this projected change to the Sky Safari gondola system at Sydney Zoo is to increase accessibility for disabled people, older people and parents with wide prams. However, the scale of this proposal is surely much greater than necessary to achieve that objective. The pylons are out of scale and will be prominent in the landscape but more importantly, the large gondolas will be moving and will attract attention, especially at dusk and at night when they will be lit. No matter how they are designed, these moving gondolas will change the character of the headland from being largely unspoilt to more like Luna Park. Sydney will lose the almost untouched quality of this headland.

Sydneysiders are proud of our famous harbour. We should do everything we can to protect the features which contribute to its reputation. Some of the most precious parts are the headlands and islands which are relatively untouched and which show the landscape as it has been for millions of years. And one of the most prominent and important of these is the peninsular which runs from Little Sirius Point to Bradleys Head and which contains the Zoo.

This headland, under New South Wales State Government control, is not just an asset for Sydney Harbour, it is a national asset and establishes Sydney and Australia as a city and as a country which carefully preserves and protects its natural heritage.

Headlands like Bradley's Head and its adjacent foreshores are scarce and precious assets. It is not possible for them to be increased or expanded and so any loss or reduction becomes permanent. It is the responsibility of the New South Wales government to preserve and protect, not to exploit.

If constructed in the form described in the proposal, the Sky Safari will draw complaints, opposition and protest from the people of Sydney. There will be a suspicion that the stated aim, to improve accessibility, is a cover for the real purpose, to make Sky Safari into a tourist attraction and that this government will allow commercial interests to take precedence over the immense value of a scarce and irreplaceable asset.

There must be a way to improve accessibility but at a smaller scale, with lower pylons and smaller gondolas.