

I write as a concerned resident to express my disgust at the attitude taken by the management of Taronga Conservation Society in their failure to adequately respond to community submissions regarding the proposal to install a new cable car system (Taronga Zoo Sky Safari) at Taronga Zoo. Overwhelmingly the community response to the first iteration related to environmental concerns including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- removal of trees for the project
- negative environmental visual impact of the skyrail from the harbour and surrounding areas
- the increased width of the skyrail
- the increased height of the pylons
- the size of the proposed gondolas

In its resubmission documents, Taronga Conservation Society has ignored these concerns and indicated plans that will further negatively impact the environment in each of these areas and in additional areas. The resubmission is arrogant. It smacks of Taronga Conservation Society's belief that this 'proposal' is a *fait accompli*. The resubmission is a further indictment of its failure to operate as a conservation society nor as the caretaker, **not owner**, of this historic and heritage listed site. Taronga Zoo is a statutory authority **owned by the people of New South Wales**.

The resubmission includes changed elements to the original proposal in response to the construction company's advice, **not** community feedback. In fact, Taronga Conservation Society's failure to adequately respond to the community issues raised, while adding additional factors to the proposal, makes the resubmission, in part, a new development proposal. This includes but is not limited to:

- removal of additional trees
- removal of more of the natural sandstone adjacent to the base of the crown land they currently occupy
- a further increase in the height of some of the pylons to support the larger gondolas

What a disgrace. If the true intention of Taronga Conservation Society is to provide equitable transportation access for all guests, it should consider community feedback and seek design of a less intrusive skyrail with lower pylons, minimal tree removal, and smaller gondolas that meet the desired outcome. The current proposal goes way beyond building an accessible transport link within the Zoo. In fact, the mention of views to the Blue Mountains and Sydney Heads being promoted in the proposal, indicates these 'caretakers' seem to have more of a focus on tourism and revenue and less on animal wellbeing and environmental conservation.

In the case of this proposal, I implore the NSW Government to take seriously its responsibility to effectively manage its stewardship of resources by prioritising the environment ahead of financial revenue, by honouring heritage over tourism and by holding to account the Taronga Conservation Society as the caretakers of this nationally and internationally significant heritage site.