

PCU060994

Mr Ben Eveleigh
Planner
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Mr Alexander Scott

By email: alexander.scott@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Eveleigh

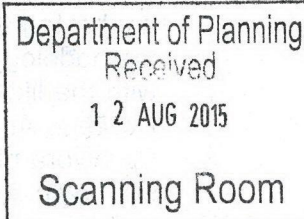
TARONGA ZOO SUMATRAN TIGER EXHIBIT, MOSMAN - Exhibition of EIS - SSD 14_6874

I refer to your letter dated 9 June 2015 requesting Heritage Council of NSW (Heritage Council) comments on the above-proposed expanded exhibit. The proposal involves the removal of existing enclosures and expansion of the enclosures for the tigers.

Taronga Zoo is not listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR), however it is noted that the Zoological Parks Board of NSW (Board) considers it to be of State significance. I understand that the zoo has been nominated by the Board for inclusion on the SHR. In light of this, the following comments are made so that the proposal does not detrimentally affect the heritage significance of the Zoo:

- The location and design of the new exhibit should not adversely affect nearby significant elements such as the Sun Bear Exhibit, Tahr Mountain, natural rock benches in the Snow Leopard exhibit and significant portions of the Cats of Asia exhibit.
- New work should be visually subservient where possible so as not to overwhelm the setting of these significant elements. Significant fabric should be retained and any fixings should either be reversible or not cause permanent damage. Detail design of pylon footings and tensile structure edge wall need to have regard for heritage items in their vicinity in developing services drawings. This is particularly pertinent in the 1930s animal pits, stone walls within the site and rock shelves in the former Snow Leopard exhibit, to allow adequate impact assessment. Other instances are the cave in the Lion enclosure and the wall dividing it and the Tiger enclosures – where possible these significant elements should be retained and form part of the new exhibit.
- The original and early paths have been assessed to be of exceptional heritage significance. Therefore they should be retained and the final design of ground levels should take the paths' alignment and heights in to consideration. Options should be explored to enable visitors to distinguish old from new paths, where these abut, for instance by varying paving materials or colours.
- Careful construction planning, particularly during earthworks including vibration mitigation, are necessary to protect all significant structures including paths and other landscape affected by proposed works. In particular, Aboriginal hand stencils, original

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and early paths, the Cats of Asia exhibit and large fig tree in the centre of the exhibit should be appropriately protected from any damage during set-up and construction. The original path should be retained *in situ* and appropriately protected during works. A detailed dilapidation survey of affected paths should be also carried out prior to commencement of works so that the condition of significant paths can be monitored.

- Zone B (or Zone 2) in the Taronga Zoo Archaeological Management Plan is identified as having high archaeological potential. An archaeological research design and methodology including mitigation and management strategies is necessary to deal with the likely potential of archaeological remains. A permit under Section 140 of the *Heritage Act 1977* may also be required for this work, for any excavation of the former Carnivora pits, although part have been filled later and if there is any likely impact on the original path network. Further design development may be required as a result of archaeological assessment.
- The new Mid-Point Building (Ranger Outpost) adjacent to Tahr Mountain should be of recessive colours and texture, so as not to impact on significant views.
- A copy of archival recordings made of the existing exhibits and surrounds should be provided to the Heritage Division in due course for its file and reference.

It is noted that separate application for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit for works in the vicinity of the Aboriginal site has been sought.

Please contact Stuart Read, Heritage Assessment Officer at the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage, on by e-mail at stuart.read@environment.nsw.gov.au or telephone 9873 8554 if you have queries arising from this letter.

Yours sincerely



Rochelle Johnston
Manager, Conservation
Heritage Division

As delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW

9 August 2015