

Building a Better Zoo

Enhancing the visitor experience

For a zoo to remain relevant, it must grow and evolve. Here at Taronga Zoo, we aim to continually improve our animal habitats while striving to enhance our visitors' experiences.

In March 2015, the NSW Government announced a \$114.8 million upgrade to the Taronga Zoo Visitor Experience program to revitalise the Zoo over the next 10 years, including an expansion to the Australia Habitat.

This is being jointly funded by the Taronga Conservation Society and the NSW Government.



Showcasing Australian wildlife

The revitalisation to the Australia Habitat will be delivered in two phases, with the first phase completed in 2018 and the second phase completed in 2021.

The Australia Habitat Phase 1 will showcase Australia's fascinating heritage, culture and wildlife.

Visitors will enjoy up-close encounters with animals in their natural habitat, including a walk-through exhibit where people can interact with and learn about our unique wildlife.

Australian animals in the new habitat may include wallabies, echidnas, bandicoots, Platypus, Koalas and Freshwater Eels.

Visitors to the revitalised habitat will also be immersed in the diverse cultures of Australia's Indigenous communities, all on the shores of Cammeragal country.



At Taronga, we believe that wildlife and humans can share this planet. We're working tirelessly to achieve a shared future, helping threatened species to breed, protecting their genetic diversity and even re-introducing them to the wild. We're striving to be a centre for conservation excellence and through our work we aim to inspire individuals and communities.



**Taronga.
For the Wild.**



Immersive Conservation Experiences

As part of Phase 1 of the revitalisation to the Australia Habitat, we are delivering a new overnight conservation experience.

Immersed within the Australia Habitat, the Taronga Wildlife Retreat will wrap around a wildlife sanctuary housing animals such as wallabies, echidnas, bandicoots, Platypus, Koalas and Freshwater Eels.

Central to the Taronga Wildlife Retreat concept is the opportunity it will provide for people to learn more about our wildlife, the threats Australian species face, and be inspired to become conservation champions.

Visitors will be hosted by Zoo Keepers, Taronga Guest Experience Officers and Indigenous Guides, who will provide tours and talks in the context of a beautiful Australian native landscape.

Taronga Wildlife Retreat will offer a unique overnight conservation experience supporting:

- Interaction with Australian animals in unique and engaging ways,
- Understanding of the connection between Indigenous culture and the environment, and
- Changes to attitudes and behaviours around making sustainable product choices and supporting conservation efforts.



Expanding our existing conservation experiences

The Taronga Wildlife Retreat builds on existing overnight conservation experiences like Roar and Snore at Taronga Zoo and Zoofari Lodge at Taronga Western Plains Zoo.

Like the existing programs, the Taronga Wildlife Retreat will be run and fully funded by Taronga. All income generated by the Taronga Wildlife Retreat will support the care of our animals and our conservation initiatives in Australia and overseas.

Immersive wildlife programs like Roar and Snore **change people's attitudes and behaviours.**

Upon arrival,
48%
of Roar and Snore overnight visitors indicated they intended **"to make a conscious effort to do things to help conserve the environment"**.

Following their stay, this increased to

↑ 71%

Taronga Wildlife Retreat features include:

- An environmentally sensitive design, planned to be built to high environmental standards,
- Five small-scale accommodation pods nestled into the landscape,
- A standalone guest lodge with an external deck overlooking the wildlife sanctuary, and
- A new kitchen and dining room adjacent to the existing Taronga Function Centre.



AUSTRALIA HABITAT PHASE 1 | Map



Taronga Conservation Society Australia

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TARONGA
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D Presentation

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Taronga Wildlife Retreat

*Fostering connections between
people and Australia's wildlife*



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Retreat Overview

An immersive overnight wildlife experience that will support:

- **Interaction with Australian animals in unique and engaging ways**
- **Understanding of the connections that Indigenous Australians have with the environment**
- **Influencing attitudes and behaviours around sustainability and wildlife conservation.**

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Improving the Visitor Experience

The broader program to revitalise the zoo

The Retreat is being delivered alongside a \$114.8 million program to revitalise the zoo, including:

- Revitalised Australia Habitat – walk-through exhibit where visitors can interact with our native animals
- Sumatran Tiger Adventure – an Indonesian-themed tiger exhibit to support the zoo's breeding program
- African Savannah – with new lion, giraffe and zebra habitats and meerkat encounters
- Congo Forest – an expanded home for Taronga's gorilla family, rare bongos and pygmy hippos
- New Orang-utan exhibit – showcasing these endangered species and their threats
- Elephant Trail – to enable public viewing of elephants walking across the zoo.



Fostering Genuine Connections

Inspirational connections between people and wildlife

The Retreat is part of a proposed Australia Habitat revitalisation at Taronga and will wrap around a sanctuary featuring Australian wildlife.

As part of an overnight experience, visitors will learn about our wildlife and the threats Australian species face and be inspired to become conservation champions.

Through the Retreat, we will foster genuine connections between people and Australia's fascinating wildlife.



Connecting with Wildlife

Encounters with Australian animals

The Taronga Wildlife Retreat builds on existing overnight experiences, like Roar and Snore and Safari Lodge at Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo.

During a 24-hour stay, visitors will be given tours and talks while immersed in the beautiful Australian landscape.

Visitors will encounter a variety of Australian animals through:

- Unique animal encounters
- Visiting the Retreat sanctuary
- Views of the sanctuary from each room
- Walk-through exhibits.



Conservation and Education

Influencing people's attitudes and behaviour

Demand for immersive wildlife experiences like Roar and Snore are increasing

- In 2013/14 more than 11,000 people participated in the program – more than any previous year.

Immersive wildlife programs like Roar and Snore change people's attitudes and behaviour

- Upon arrival, 48% of Roar and Snore overnight visitors indicated they intended “to make a conscious effort to do things to help conserve the environment”
- Following their stay, this increased to 71% of Roar and Snore overnight visitors



Cammeraigal Culture

Celebrating our Indigenous heritage

The Taronga Wildlife Retreat will be located within Cammeraigal country.

Cammeraigal culture will be celebrated through recognising spiritual connections with animals including the Bandicoot, Red-bellied Black Snake, White Cockatoo and Willy Wagtail.

Authentic cultural connections will be created through:

- Selection of animals that represent the indigenous connection with wildlife
- Indigenous guides sharing the story of our heritage
- Indigenous themes and artwork.



An Immersive Wildlife Experience

Features of the Taronga Wildlife Retreat

The Retreat will wrap around a wildlife sanctuary housing animals such as Platypus, wallabies, Koalas, bandicoots and echidnas.

- Accommodation pods will nestle into the landscape where visitors will be surrounded by the sights and sounds of wildlife.
- Each room will be unique and brought to life through indigenous art and design.
- Spaces within the Retreat – including a restaurant, guest lounge and deck with views of the sanctuary and harbour – will encourage guests to explore the connection between people and wildlife.



Supporting Tourism

Taronga as a tourism industry leader

Taronga Zoo is the largest paid attraction in NSW and among the top three in Australia, with 1.47 million visitors each year.

Nearly half of the zoo's visitors come from outside of NSW – 34% from overseas and 15% from interstate – making it a major driver of tourism demand.

Taronga Wildlife Retreat builds on existing overnight experiences – these have been enjoyed by almost 40,000 people each year for more than a decade.



Responding to Our Surroundings

Environmentally sensitive design

Design is sensitive to the local site and ensures the Taronga Wildlife Retreat blends with its surrounds.

- The Retreat is planned to be built to the highest environmental standards.
- Accommodation pods will nestle within the Australia Habitat, sloping down towards the Harbour.
- The highest point of the accommodation pods will be no higher than the first floor of the existing Taronga Centre.



Summary

Taronga Wildlife Retreat is a continuation of our commitment to securing a shared future for wildlife and people.

Through the Retreat, we're providing a unique overnight wildlife experience that will:

- Support conservation and education – by changing attitudes and behaviours
- Foster connections between people and wildlife through inspiring animal encounters
- Celebrate our indigenous heritage and increase understanding of Cammeraiagal culture



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E Newspaper Advertisement

THERE ARE EXCITING CHANGES OCCURRING AT TARONGA ZOO AND WE WANT TO KEEP YOU INFORMED.

We will be holding a Community Information Session on upcoming projects including the Australia Habitat Phase 1 revitalisation and the Taronga Wildlife Retreat, and welcome your attendance.

WHERE: Taronga Function Centre,
Taronga Zoo, Bradleys Head Road,
Mosman

WHEN: Tuesday 15 December,
between 6pm and 7:30pm.

You are welcome to drop in anytime.

Project information including
artist impressions and maps will
be available to view. Members of
the project team will be on hand to
answer your questions.

**We look forward to
seeing you there.**



Taronga Conservation Society Australia

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F Media Clippings

25 November 2015 – **The Daily Telegraph**

Taronga Zoo to expand its accommodation offering

26 November 2015 - **Mosman Daily**

You belong in the Zoo

3 December 2015 - **Sydney Morning Herald**

Taronga Zoo plans \$44 million 'eco-resort' inside zoo to attract international visitors

3 December - **Daily Mail Australia**

Sydney's Taronga Zoo unveils new overnight accommodation

8 December - **Australasian Leisure Management**

Taronga Zoo looks to develop Wildlife Retreat accommodation experience

11 December 2015 - **AWOL**

Taronga Zoo Wants To Build An Eco Resort Beside Their Animal Enclosures

10 January 2016 – **The Daily Telegraph**

Centenary - Taronga Zoo ready to celebrate 100 years

North Shore

‘Guests will be able to look out at koalas from their window’: new Taronga Wildlife Retreat to be an immersive experience

November 26, 2015 12:36pm
Bryant Hevesi Mosman Daily



Taronga Zoo guests will be able to get up close and personal with native species at the Taronga Wildlife Retreat.

- [Zoo staffer is mum to almost 100 orphaned baby animals](#)
- [The tiny face of Taronga Zoo's first koala of the breeding season](#)
- [Sugar cut from animal diets to keep them happy and healthy](#)
- [Sydney's newest boom suburb](#)

SYDNEY'S Taronga Zoo guests will soon have the chance to spend a night surrounded by Australian wildlife.

Inspired by the success of Roar And Snore, the zoo has unveiled plans to create a new overnight accommodation experience, the Taronga Wildlife Retreat.

The [Mosman Daily](#) can reveal five “pods” will be built within a redeveloped Australia habitat precinct.

There will also be a guest lodge, built behind a new platypus pool, and dining room.

Zookeepers, Taronga guest experience officers and indigenous guides will be on hand for morning and evening tours.

Guests can watch koalas from their pod windows and, after hours, get up close with other native species, such as the potoroo and the bettong.

Other Stories



Schumacher's health 'is not good'



Havana Brown turns up the heat



Meet the WAGs of Super Bowl 50



If the salmonella doesn't get you, the spider might



The Taronga Wildlife Retreat will be immersed into the landscape.

"A lot of these species are nocturnal. We'll be doing evening encounters, so that's one of the benefits of being here at night," operations manager of life sciences, Rodd Stapley, said.

"One of the other experiences we're looking at is a freshwater eel encounter.

"Guests will be able to come of an evening, put gum boots on and feed long-fin eels, which have a lot of significance to this site in terms of their indigenous connections. There'll be encounters where you'll sit down in an area and potoroos and bettongs will come out."

Mr Stapley said the retreat would build on the zoo's conservation efforts.

"The Zoo is about achieving conservation outcomes and behavioural change," he said.



You'll soon be able to walk among native wildlife once the Australia Habitat area is redeveloped.



Ms Hodgson said the site would be a mix between a great experience and the zoo's conservation work.

Of the Roar And Snore guests, 48 per cent arrived intending "to make a conscious effort to do things to help conserve the environment". That number rose to 71 per cent on departure.

Director of marketing and fundraising Libby Hodgson said the site would be a mix of the zoo's conservation work and a great experience.

“Because of the nature of the site, we’re able to blend (the pods) very well into the landscape,” she said.

“There’s some really exciting designs being done with green screening and foliage over them to really make sure they’re [immersed into the landscape](#).”

Those not staying overnight will still benefit from the new habitat precinct, the first stage of which is due for completion in 2018.

“It will be a space where you can see a real variety of Australian species,” Ms Hodgson said.

TIGERS TO ROAR INTO NEW HOME

A NEW [Sumatran tiger exhibit](#) will allow Taronga Zoo to substantially increase its tiger population.

From mid-2017, tigers will be housed at the Sumatran Tiger Experience, which will be about four times larger than the current exhibit, which dates back to 1916.

“We’re going to be moving from a smaller, 1916-style exhibit to a modern-day, over 2000sq m (exhibit) for our Sumatran tigers,” unit supervisor of carnivores Louise Ginman said.

“It means our Sumatran tiger holding will go up from about a maximum of five to potentially 12 tigers. Having that extra space means we can breed more regularly if the need arises.

“At the moment we can only breed once every five to 10 years but having those extra spaces for the entire Australian region means we can now increase the Sumatran tiger population within Australia.”



Concept image of the ranger outpost viewing area.

Ms Ginman said zoo visitors would be taken on a Sumatran adventure.

“We’re going to be building enclosures that are unique to Australia for holding Sumatran tigers,” she said.

“It’s a special stainless steel netting, which will make the experience of seeing the tigers that much more real. You’ll be able to hear and smell them, whereas at our current exhibit, they’re behind glass.”

DETAILS

- A \$114.8 million, 10-year, masterplan to revitalise the zoo, funded by the State Government and Taronga Conservation Society, was announced in March
- The new Sumatran Tiger Experience is expected to be completed in mid-2017; the first stage of the Australia Habitat in 2018

MOSMAN

You belong in the zoo

EXCLUSIVE: NEW TARONGA PLANS REVEALED

Bryant Hevesi

TARONGA Zoo guests will soon have the chance to spend a night surrounded by Australian wildlife.

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There will also be a guest lodge, built behind a new platypus pool, and dining room.

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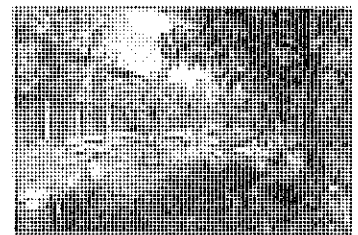
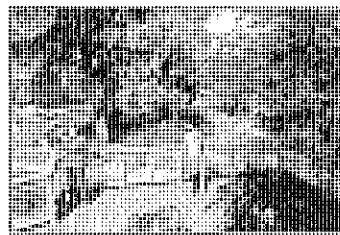
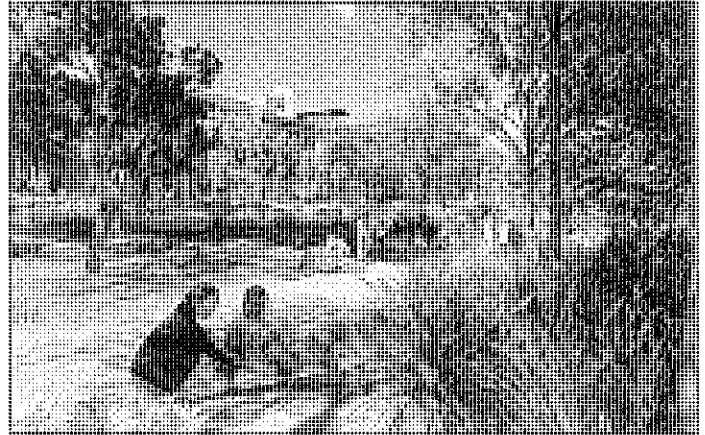
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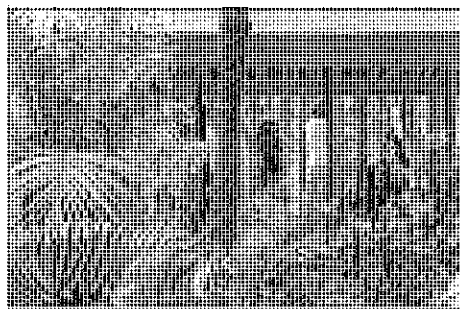
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Those not staying overnight will still benefit from the new habitat precinct, the first stage of which is due for completion in 2018. "It will be a space where you can see a real variety of Australian species," Ms Hodgson said.



The Taronga Wildlife Retreat will enable guests to stay overnight, amid native animals.



How the new sumatran tiger viewing area will look.

Tigers to roar into new home

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03

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Taronga Zoo plans \$44 million 'eco-resort' inside zoo to attract international visitors

Date

December 3, 2015 - 5:37PM

Deborah Snow



A site aerial of the Australian Habitat and Taronga Wildlife Retreat proposal. *Photo: Taronga zoo planning document*

Sydney's Taronga Zoo has quietly lodged a request to build a \$44 million dollar "eco-resort" inside the zoo in a bid to boost revenues and attract well-heeled international visitors to help "revitalise" the harbourside attraction.

The plan has been welcomed by the Sydney Business Chamber but slammed by ALP opposition planning spokeswoman Penny Sharpe, who said it will "triple the number of high-paying guests at the expense of general access to the zoo".

In a brochure outlining the plan, the Zoo says it is "delivering a new overnight conservation experience" which will allow visitors who pay for the privilege to be "immersed" within the so-called Australia Habitat section of the zoo, which showcases native fauna.



The proposal for the Australian Habitat and Taronga Wildlife Retreat. *Photo: Taronga zoo planning document*

They will stay in specially designed luxury "pods", which will "wrap around a wildlife sanctuary housing animals such as wallabies, echidnas, bandicoots, platypus, koalas and freshwater eels", the brochure says.

Advertisement

Documents freshly lodged on the NSW government Planning and Environment website reveal plans for five connected "accommodation pods" ranging in height from two to four storeys.

There will be 58 rooms in total and four suites, with a new four-storey kitchen and dining facility for the eco-resort, and a new guest lodge housing a bar and reception area.

The zoo's application says it wants to "build on the success" of its Roar and Snore program, which provides tent accommodation for around 50 people a night on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings, and throughout school holidays.

However the new plan, for what it calls the "Australia Habitat and Taronga Wildlife Retreat", shows a quantum leap up from the existing tent accommodation.

As well as the new accommodation "pods", the plans - budgeted at \$44,013,000 - envisage construction of a new kangaroo habitat, new aviaries, landscaping, a new "walk-through exhibition" and other changes to signage and viewing platforms.

The zoo says the new "resort" tucked inside its prime harbourside site will attract international and interstate visitors "looking for a unique nature-based experience close to the city" as well as mid-week corporate events, wedding parties seeking venues with on-site accommodation and domestic visitors looking for a "special night or weekend away."

It claims that the project will support conservation efforts because it will inspire visitors to "become conservation champions" and "learn more about our wildlife".

"As a unique overnight conservation experience, the Retreat will increase awareness about Australia's native animals and our heritage, by allowing people to spend time right in the heart of the Zoo along with Australian fauna Zoo keepers and Indigenous guides" a spokesman told Fairfax Media.

But Greens MP and animal welfare spokesperson Dr Mehreen Faruqi says the \$44 million should be spent instead on "improving conditions and space for the animals", not providing "flashy resort-style accommodation for international tourists on public land."

The application for approval of the project has been classed a state significant development which means that it will be determined by the Minister for Planning.

In the run-up to the state election, NSW Premier Mike Baird earmarked around \$57 million for investment at the zoo, saying it was a "jewel" in Sydney's crown but had become "rundown".

"The more people that visit, that drives the economy, that drives jobs and that's great for the state" he said.

However it appears the money announced by Mr Baird will not be directed towards the eco-resort.

A Zoo spokesman said the retreat would have to be "fully funded by the Zoo" with revenues used to "support our conservation programs for threatened species".

No information was available on the nightly rates to be charged at the resort, though they are likely to be substantial.

The spokesman said rates would "cover the full experience, including guided tours, wildlife encounters, meals and accommodation".

He said the Zoo was hoping to start construction in 2017, once full planning approval has been granted. An environmental impact statement has yet to be conducted.

Asked if the area of the eco resort would be closed to ordinary members of the public at the zoo, the spokesman said "visitors to the rest of the zoo will be able to enjoy viewing of native animals in the sanctuary from dedicated vantage points".

Read more: <http://www.theage.com.au/nsw/taronga-zoo-plans-44-million-ecoresort-inside-zoo-to-attract-international-visitors-20151203-glebhj.html#ixzz3tliehaQF>

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Daily Mail

AUSTRALIA

Friday, Feb 5th 2016 [2PM](#) [22°C](#) [5PM](#) [23°C](#) [5-Day Forecast](#)

Would you stay overnight at the ZOO? Sydney's Taronga unveils new \$44 million wildlife retreat that will let guests sleep among wallabies, koalas and bandicoots

- Taronga Zoo is building a Wildlife Retreat with five accommodation pods
- The pods will blend into the landscape and will be surrounded by wildlife
- Zookeepers and indigenous guides will bring guests on private tours
- The Wildlife Retreat is part of the zoo's \$150 million plan to revamp the zoo

By [Nicole Low For Daily Mail Australia](#)

Published: 23:26 EST, 3 December 2015 | Updated: 01:22 EST, 4 December 2015

Visitors to [Sydney](#)'s Taronga Zoo will soon be able to spend the night in the popular tourist hotspot surrounded by native Australian wildlife.

The zoo on Thursday unveiled plans to launch the Taronga Wildlife Retreat which would comprise of five small-scale accommodation 'pods' in a revamped Australian Habitat area.

The 'pods' will be nestled into the landscape and will be surrounded by a wildlife sanctuary featuring wallabies, echidnas, bandicoots, platypus, koalas and freshwater eels.



Sydney's Taronga Zoo has unveiled plans to build five new accommodation 'pods' for overnight guests



The new accommodation program, Taronga Wildlife Retreat, will bring visitors closer to Australian wildlife

Guests would be able to view koalas from the comfort of their pods, [The Mosman Daily](#) reported.

'Because of the nature of the site, we're able to blend (the pods) very well into the landscape,' the zoo's director of marketing and fundraising Libby Hodgson told the newspaper.

The new accommodation expands on the zoo's successful overnight stay program - Roar and Snore.

'The Taronga Wildlife Retreat builds on our existing overnight conservation experiences like Roar and Snore, which are proven to be a powerful way to influence people's attitudes and behaviours towards wildlife conservation,' Taronga's director of visitor experience Paul Maguire said.



Visitors who book accommodations at Taronga Wildlife Retreat will be taken on private tours of the zoo



The zoo hopes to educate the public about endangered animals and the threats they are facing



Taronga Zoo is undergoing a \$150 million revamp which will take place over the next decade

Mr Maguire said zookeepers and indigenous guides would bring visitors on private tours to view rarely seen native animals.

He said the zoo was hopeful the guided tours would increase awareness of the animals and the threats they faced.

The Wildlife Retreat - which will focus on Australian wildlife and indigenous culture - is scheduled to be completed in 2018.

Those who are not staying overnight can still look forward to Taronga's new attractions.



The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, along with their son George, visited Taronga Zoo when they were on an official tour of Australia last year (stock image)



Taronga's new accommodation builds on their successful Roar and Snore initiative which allows visitors to see the animals after-hours (stock image)



Roar and Snore visitors go on late evening and early morning walks and can feed a giraffe during a behind-the-scenes tour (stock image)

A new Sumatran tiger experience will include three exhibit areas and allow the zoo to expand its tiger group to eight of the critically endangered big cats.

The Sumatran tiger experience is scheduled to open in mid-2017.

The new features are part of Taronga's \$150 million plan to revitalise the zoo over the next 10 years.

Taronga Zoo is one of Sydney's more popular attractions - drawing international visitors such as Oprah Winfrey and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

TARONGA ZOO LOOKS TO DEVELOP WILDLIFE RETREAT ACCOMMODATION EXPERIENCE



December 8, 2015

[Attractions](#) / [Environment](#) / [Tourism](#) /

In an effort to attract more international visitors, Sydney's Taronga Zoo is seeking to develop a \$44 million new overnight accommodation experience, the Taronga Wildlife Retreat.

Inspired by the success of the Zoo's 'Roar And Snore' experiences, the planned nature-based tourism development will feature five luxury pods wrapped around a native wildlife sanctuary that will include wallabies, echidnas, bandicoots, platypus, koalas and freshwater eels. Each pod will range in height from two to four storeys, offering 58 bedrooms and four suites in total.

The development will also include a four-storey kitchen and dining facility, as well as a guest lodge housing a bar and reception area.

Outlined as part of a new masterplan for the Zoo, the Taronga Wildlife Retreat will "deliver a new overnight conservation experience" which will allow visitors "total immersion" within the Australia Habitat section of the zoo.

In addition to the Wildlife Retreat, the plans envisage construction of a kangaroo habitat, aviaries, landscaping, a new walk-through exhibition and other changes to signage and viewing platforms for Australia Habitat.



The experience will also see zookeepers, Taronga Zoo guest experience staff and indigenous guides on hand for morning and evening tours while guests will be view nocturnal species such as the potoroo and the bettong from behind their pod windows

Commenting on the development to the *Mosman Daily*, the Zoo's Operations Manager of Life Sciences Rodd Stapley explained "a lot of these species are nocturnal (so) we'll be doing evening encounters, so that's one of the benefits of being here at night.

"One of the other experiences we're looking at is a freshwater eel encounter.

"Guests will be able to come of an evening, put gum boots on and feed long-fin eels, which have a lot of significance to this site in terms of their indigenous connections. There'll be encounters where you'll sit down in an area and potoroos and bettongs will come out."

Taronga Zoo Director of Marketing and Fundraising Libby Hodgson said the site would be a mix between a great experience and the zoo's conservation work.

Hodgson explained that of the Zoo's current Roar And Snore guests, 48% arrived intending "to make a conscious effort to do things to help conserve the environment". That number rose to 71% on departure.

As part of the submission to the NSW Government department of Planning and Environment, Taronga Zoo said the resort would be "tucked inside" its prime harbourside site.

The document also says the development's target market will be international and interstate visitors "looking for a unique nature-based experience close to the city" as well as mid-week corporate events and domestic visitors looking for a "special night or weekend away."



The application has been classed as a state significant development, meaning its fate will be determined by NSW Minister for Planning John Rau. The Zoo envisages that development will be funded internally, with revenues generated used to support conservation programmes for threatened species.

While an environmental impact statement is yet to be conducted, Zoo officials are hoping to start construction in 2017, once full planning approval has been granted.

Taronga Zoo is planning and developing a range of new habitats including a new Sumatran tiger exhibit that will open from mid-2017.

Allowing the Zoo to substantially increase its tiger population, the new area will be about four times larger than the current exhibit, which dates back to 1916.

Images: Artist's impressions of the planned Taronga Wildlife Retreat (top and middle) and the Sumatran tiger exhibit (below).

- See more at: <http://www.ausleisure.com.au/news/taronga-zoo-looks-to-develop-wildlife-retreat-accommodation-experience/#sthash.IfCY3l5S.dpuf>

Taronga Zoo Wants To Build An Eco Resort Beside Their Animal Enclosures

Yes please.

By [AWOL](#), 11/12/2015

What is it about us humans that instinctively draws us to animals? Is it because they're often so warm and fluffy and they at least *look* friendly? Either way, we're keen to be close to them, so it was only time before someone decided there should be a way for us animal-obsessed humans to get closer to these literal creature comforts by letting us spend the night at the zoo. Canberra Zoo introduced [the awesome Jamala Wildlife Lodge](#) which lets you (safely) chill out (or even have a bath) beside lion, cheetah and bear enclosures and Sydney's Taronga Zoo jumped at the opportunity earlier in the year with [the launch of their Roar & Snore initiative](#) – guests could glamp in safari tents nestled between the lion, leopard and meerkat enclosures.

Now, Taronga Zoo has just announced plans to build a brand new 58-room resort right in the heart of the zoo.



The \$44 million initiative, which has just been lodged to with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, plans to boost revenues and attract international visitors who are keen on getting up close and personal with some of our native fauna. Visitors will be fully immersed within the Australian Habitat section of the zoo, staying in specially designed luxury “pods” that blend in with the wildlife sanctuary, which is home to a collection of wallabies, echidnas, bandicoots, platypus, koalas and freshwater eels.

[RELATED: YOU CAN SEE COURTNEY BARNETT PLAY AT AUSTRALIA'S MOST FAMOUS ZOO](#)



(Photo: Taronga Zoo/[Facebook](#))

As well as the new eco resort, the projected plan is set to bring a new kangaroo habitat, new aviaries, landscaping and a new walk-through native exhibition in the zoo. The plan is still in the early stages and still requires an environmental impact statement, so we're waiting in eager anticipation as to when we'll be able to snooze with some 'roos.

(h/t [SMH](#), lead image: [Taronga Zoo](#))

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the spider might

100 years on: Centenary of Taronga Zoo



Taronga Zoo opens its doors on October 7, 1916.

1 of 50

Three women take an
Visitors to Taronga Zoo
all it cost for this memo

2 of 50

The state government announced last year a \$150 million, 10-year centenary masterplan for the site to coincide with the milestone.

Work will begin next month on developing the zoo's Sumatran tigers exhibit, allowing Taronga to expand its tiger breeding group with up to eight big cats.

A science and research centre and a Taronga Wildlife Retreat overnight conservation experience will also be built.

"We are planning a whole year of celebration and activities," Ms Hodgson said.

As part of its centenary celebrations, the zoo is offering \$1 admission with the support of ANZ for guests who visit on their birthday.

It's also calling on visitors to share their memories. The zoo has launched a social media campaign using the hashtag #IGrewUpWithTaronga and has already received hundreds of submissions.

Centenary: Taronga Zoo ready to celebrate 100 years

January 10, 2016 12:00am

Neil Keene The Sunday Telegraph



Taronga Zoo's opening day at the Mosman site in 1916.

FROM its humble beginnings at Billy Goat Swamp at Moore Park to its current site at Mosman, the growth of Taronga Zoo has been well documented.

The NSW Zoological Society was formed in 1879, leasing land for a zoo at Moore Park. By 1883, the animals were joined by those on display at Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens.

The zoo opened its doors at its Mosman site on October 7, 1916, with a menagerie of 228 mammals, 552 birds and 64 reptiles, many of which had to be ferried across Sydney Harbour on a flat-top barge.

"One hundred years ago it was very much about showing animals for the entertainment of people," marketing, commercial and fundraising director Libby Hodgson said.

"We had things like elephant rides and activities with chimpanzees that we simply wouldn't do now.

"Where we are heading, and where all good modern zoos are heading, is to focus on science, research and conservation, and to focus on achieving the highest welfare standards possible for animals at the zoo."

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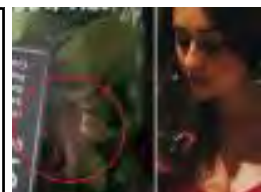
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