

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to address an enquiry as to whether the red-crowned toadlet (*Pseudophryne australis*) is present on the Taronga Zoo site in Mosman.

I can confirm there are certainly no populations of this species on the Taronga Zoo property, and that there hasn't been since I began employment at the zoo in 2003. I can also find no evidence of them existing on the zoo grounds in the decades prior. In my opinion, the Taronga Zoo property does not contain any habitat suitable to sustain a population of this species.

The area where the Taronga Retreat will be located certainly does not contain habitat in which this species would exist. Red-crowned toadlets rely on uncleared areas of vegetation for their primary foraging habitat and breed in ephemeral creeks that typically only contain water during periods of heavy or sustained rain. This habitat type is not present on the zoo grounds. There are populations of this species within Sydney Harbour National Park, which is located adjacent to the zoo, where this habitat does exist.

I can confirm the above as a threatened amphibian biologist who has previously undertaken survey and monitoring work on red-crowned toadlets. I also undertake extensive survey work each year on threatened amphibian species within the genus *Pseudophryne*, including the southern and northern corroboree frog.

Yours sincerely,



Michael McFadden  
Curator, Native Fauna  
Taronga Conservation Society Australia

Taronga Zoo Sydney  
Taronga Western Plains  
Zoo Dubbo  
Taronga Foundation  
Research and  
Conservation Centre  
Australian Conservation  
Genetics Centre  
Wildlife Hospital  
Australian Wildlife  
Health Network  
Australian Registry  
of Wildlife Health  
Marine Rescue Unit  
Australian Marine Mammal  
Research Centre  
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