

Response to Daily Telegraph on Taronga Zoo planning issues
14 February, 2013

Department of Planning and Infrastructure response:

The department is currently undertaking the largest program of updating and modernising local environmental plans (LEPs) that has been embarked on in NSW during the past 30 years. This program is delivering substantial benefits, including greater consistency in the format of these local plans and identifying and zoning new land for housing and jobs. Almost 100 standard instrument LEPs are now in place across the state.

During the roll-out of this program, the Taronga Zoo site was inadvertently listed in the new Mosman standard instrument LEP as a local heritage item, rather than carrying across only the individual heritage items within the zoo that had previously been listed. The Mosman LEP currently requires individual development applications to be lodged for routine maintenance of animal enclosures which had previously been permitted as development without consent under Mosman LEP 1998.

The department has worked closely with Mosman Council and Taronga Zoo to resolve these issues. Council submitted a planning proposal to the department in January 2013 requesting a Gateway determination to amend the Mosman LEP with respect to the Taronga Zoo site. The department is finalising its consideration of whether the planning proposal can proceed to the next stage. If the proposal proceeds, the council would be required to undertake public consultation.