

Sydney Zoo

Condition D7 Annual Review

January 2023-December 2023

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Sydney Zoo

Condition D7 Annual Review January 2023-December 2023

Compliance Report Declaration Form

Project Name	Sydney Zoo
Name of Operator	Sydney Zoo Pty Ltd
Development Consent	SSD 7228
Development Consent Holder	Sydney Zoo
Description of Project	Construction and operation of a zoological facility within the Western Sydney Parklands.
Project Address	700 Great Western Highway, Bungarribee, NSW 2767
Annual Review Start Date	20 December 2022
Annual Review End Date	31 December 2023
Declaration	<p>I declare that I have reviewed the contents of the attached Compliance Report and to the best of my knowledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. the Compliance Report has been prepared in accordance with all relevant conditions of consent;ii. the Compliance Report has been prepared in accordance with the Compliance Reporting Requirements;iii. the findings of the Compliance Report are reported truthfully, accurately and completely;iv. due diligence and professional judgement have been exercised in preparing the Compliance Report; andv. the Compliance Report is an accurate summary of the compliance status of the development. <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Under section 10.6 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 a person must not include false or misleading information (or provide information for inclusion in) a report of monitoring data or an audit report produced to the Minister in connection with an audit if the person knows that the information is false or misleading in a material respect. The proponent of an approved project must not fail to include information in (or provide information for inclusion in) a report of monitoring data or an audit report produced to the Minister in connection with an audit if the person knows that the information is materially relevant to the monitoring or audit. The maximum penalty is, in the case of a corporation, \$1 million and for an individual, \$250,000; and</i>• <i>The Crimes Act 1900 contains other offences relating to false and misleading information: section 307B (giving false or misleading information – maximum penalty 2 years' imprisonment or 200 penalty units, or both).</i>
Name of Authorised Reporting Officer	Peter Thiel
Title	Chief Operating Officer
Signature	
Qualification	
Company	Sydney Zoo Pty Ltd
Company Address	700 Great Western Highway, Bungarribee, NSW 2767

1.0 Introduction

The Sydney Zoo site is located approximately 33 kilometres west of the Sydney Central Business District (CBD), and approximately 15 kilometres east of Penrith. It falls within the Western Sydney Parklands, and is in close proximity to the Great Western Highway, M4 Western Motorway and Westlink M7, providing excellent access to both the state and regional road network and surrounding parkland areas.

1.1 The SSD 7228 Consent

On 8 September 2017 the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) approved SSD 7228 for the construction and operation of a zoological facility within the Western Sydney Parklands, the Sydney Zoo. The development provides a new recreational facility for Western Sydney which opened to the public on 6 December 2019.

The development, as approved by the PAC, comprised a zoological facility containing animal exhibits and associated infrastructure over the site, being a total area of approximately 16.5ha, for the following key components:

- Animal exhibits across several enclosures of varying design for a range of native and exotic animals.
- Back-of-house buildings for exhibits.
- Main entrance building comprising entry/exit, and gift shop.
- Restaurant and café, kiosks and amenities.
- Educational show arena.
- Picnic areas and gardens.
- Wetlands and waterways.
- Service building containing administration areas; curatorial and food preparation areas; and veterinarian space.
- Service yard with maintenance shelter.
- Internal services and utilities to support the zoo, including water, sewer, electricity and telecommunications.
- Car parking for approximately 1,053 vehicles, bus and coach parking.
- Associated signage and landscaping.

A number of modifications have been lodged and approved by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) since the consent was issued and as a result of design development refinement:

- **Modification 1:** This modification related to the reconfiguration of exhibits, buildings and back-of-house facilities within the site, and was approved by DPE on 8 May 2018.
- **Modification 2:** This modification related to the reconfiguration of the aquatic habitat, realignment of the boardwalk access path and amendments to the Landscape Masterplan, and was approved by DPE on 20 September 2018.
- **Modification 3:** This modification sought approval for minor changes to (then) approved hours of operation, and was approved by DPE on 25 November 2019.
- **Modification 4:** This modification related to the addition of new back of house sheds to support the operation of the zoo, and was approved by DPE on 25 November 2019.
- **Modification 5:** This modification sought approval for minor amendments to (then) Condition B7 relating to exotic animals, however this application was withdrawn.
- **Modification 6:** This modification related to proposed design changes to the Farm Experience exhibit, and was approved by DPE on 3 June 2020.
- **Modification 7:** This modification sought approval for a minor change to the (then) approved operational scope of the zoo in the form of extended operating hours, and was approved by DPE on 28 June 2021.
- **Modification 8:** This modification related to the installation of a permanent Ferris wheel as an additional guest experience offering, and was approved by DPE on 15 February 2022.

- **Modification 9:** This modification seeks amendments to Condition B10C, which imposes a 300-person visitor cap between the hours of 7:30am and 9:00am, and was approved on 22 August 2022.
- **Modification 10:** This modification sought to add two new animal exhibits and associated back of house facilities. It was approved on 23 November 2022.
- **Modification 11:** this modification deleted condition B9 to permit flying birds to be displayed within existing exhibits at the zoo and was approved on 5 December 2023.



Figure 1 Approved Site Plan (Modification 10)

Source: Sydney Zoo

1.2 Condition D7

Condition D7 of the SSD7228 consent imposes the requirement for an Annual Review to be carried out of the development.

ANNUAL REVIEW

D7. Each year, unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Secretary, the Applicant shall review the environmental performance of the Development to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This review shall:

- (a) include a comprehensive review of the monitoring results and complaints records received by the Development over the previous calendar year, which includes a comparison of these results against the:

 - i) relevant statutory requirements, limits or performance measures/criteria;*
 - ii) requirements of any plan or program required under this consent;*
 - iii) monitoring results of the previous years; and*
 - iv) relevant predictions in the EIS;**
- (b) identify any non-compliance over the last year and describe the actions that were (or are being) taken to ensure compliance;*
- (c) identify any trends in monitoring data over the life of the Development;*
- (d) identify any discrepancies between the predicted and actual impacts of the Development and analyse the potential cause of any significant discrepancies;*
- (e) describe what measures will be implemented over the next year to improve the environmental performance of the Development; and*
- (f) verify the total daily visitor numbers for private zoo experiences / small group tours commencing between the hours of 7:30 am and 9 am has not exceeded the limit of 1,500 persons and include an outline of management actions to be taken to address any exceedance of the limit on visitor numbers and ensure ongoing compliance with the requirements of this consent.*

This report forms the Annual Review per Condition D7.

2.0 Previous Report Actions

This section identifies the previous Annual Review reports submitted, and actions arising from each as relevant.

Table 1 Previous Annual Reviews

Previous Annual Reviews	Date Submitted to DPE	Date Approved by DPE
Annual Review 2020-2022 (AR 2020-2022)	19 December 2022	1 May 2023 DPE considered the late submission of the 2020 and 2021 periods in accordance with compliance policy and determined to record the breach with no further enforcement action.

Table 2 Actions Required from Previous Reviews

Source	Consent Condition	Action Proposed	Proposed Completion Date	Status	Action Completed
AR 2020-2022	D11 - Auditing	Carry out Independent Environmental Audit	2023	Awaiting Verification of Independent Auditors	Not completed during the timespan of this report.

3.0 Compliance Status Summary

The statement of compliance for the 2023 reporting period is contained below.

Table 3 *Statement of Compliance*

Were all conditions of the relevant approval complied with?	
SSD 7228	Yes / No

The following outlines the compliance status of conditions of consent. The status of each is per the following:

- **Compliant:** The proponent has collected sufficient verifiable evidence to demonstrate that all elements of the requirement have been complied with.
- **Non-compliant:** The proponent has identified a non-compliance with one or more elements of the requirement.
- **Not triggered:** A requirement has an activation or timing trigger that has not been met at the phase of the development when the compliance assessment is undertaken, therefore an assessment of compliance is not relevant.

The table below outlines the relevant conditions and their compliance status, including reference to the relevant section for justification of compliance or further information.

Table 4 *Conditions of Consent for Compliance*

Condition #	Condition Description	Compliance Status	Comment	Relevant section
D7(f)	verify the total daily visitor numbers for private zoo experiences / small group tours commencing between the hours of 7:30 am and 9 am has not exceeded the limit of 1,500 persons and include an outline of management actions to be taken to address any exceedance of the limit on visitor numbers and ensure ongoing compliance with the requirements of this consent.	Compliant	No exceedance of visitor numbers during this time.	3.1.1

3.1 Satisfaction of Conditions of Consent for Compliance

3.1.1 Condition D7(f)

D7. Each year, unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Secretary, the Applicant shall review the environmental performance of the Development to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This review shall:

(f) verify the total daily visitor numbers for private zoo experiences / small group tours commencing between the hours of 7:30 am and 9 am has not exceeded the limit of 1,500 persons and include an outline of management actions to be taken to address any exceedance of the limit on visitor numbers and ensure ongoing compliance with the requirements of this consent.

During the course of 2023 visitor numbers between the hours of 7:30am and 9am have been limited due to a number of factors including the slow return of international travellers. To date only two tour companies utilise the 7:30am to 9am timeslot – Austrail and Brighton. The last 6 weeks of 2023 have seen the largest numbers of visitors for the year, and for Austrail they have averaged 19 visitors a day and for Brighton they have averaged 20 visitors a day. The numbers therefore remain well below the maximum of 1,500 per day. Management will continue to monitor this.

3.1.2 Condition D11 – Auditing

An independent Environmental Audit has been commissioned and it is anticipated that this will be completed in mid-2024. Sydney Zoo is utilising the same company who performed the last audit as they have familiarity with the site, and their appointment will be requested to be endorsed by DPHI in early 2024.

The next independent Environmental Audit, per Condition D11, is planned for 2026.

3.1.3 Trade Waste Analysis

Since opening in December 2019, Sydney Zoo has put in place a water monitoring policy in accordance with the requirements of Sydney Water for its trade waste.

The test results are submitted to Sydney Water quarterly and no adverse results have been received and the results are within the expected parameters. Copies of reports are contained in **Appendix A**.

4.0 Incidents

No environmental incidents have been recorded at the development over the past 12 months.

5.0 Complaints

No complaints have been received during the period of this Annual Review.

6.0 Activities to be completed in the next reporting period

The activities proposed to be undertaken during the AR 2024 reporting period are presented below.

Table 5 Proposed Activities in AR 2024 Reporting Period

Proposed Activities in 2024	Objective
Condition C5C	Obtaining a Traffic Verification Report to confirm the traffic numbers for the early morning activities.
Condition B10A/C5D	Obtaining a Noise Verification Report for the twilight concert to remove the limit on temporary and community events.
Condition D11	Obtaining an Environmental Audit for the development.

7.0 Conclusion

This Annual Review for 2023 has been prepared in satisfaction of Condition D7 of the SSD 7228 consent for the Sydney Zoo.

Appendix A