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Victorian Environmental Council  
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7<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Proposals Paper for the Statewide Assessment of Public Land.

Zoos Victoria's primary interest relates to its future management of its three properties at Melbourne Zoo, Werribee Open Range Zoo and Healesville Sanctuary. Zoos Victoria is a not-for-profit zoo-based conservation organisation and its major focus is the conservation of Australian and international species, public education and tourism. It actively supports international partners through a variety of programs. Zoos Victoria is governed by the Zoological Parks and Gardens Board under the Zoological Parks and Gardens Act 1995 and is an instrument of the Victorian State Government.

The Zoological Parks and Gardens Act 1995 mandates Zoos Victoria to:

- Conserve, protect, manage and improve the Zoos and their assets.
- Promote and increase public enjoyment of the Zoos and their assets.
- Increase public knowledge/awareness of the Zoos through exhibition, publications, educational programs, advisory services and other activities.
- Carry out and promote zoological research and conservation of wildlife.
- Provide consultancy and advice services to the public on zoological matters

To effectively fulfil its obligations Zoos Victoria needs the capacity to undertake a range of activities that are more regularly undertaken by a private business or public utility than a conservation land manager. We have large capital work programs, extensive infrastructure, significant visitation throughout the year, and regular community events. It was not entirely clear from the report whether there were any changes proposed that would affect the ability of Zoos Victoria to undertake these activities and this needs to be ensured. The recommendations need to ensure that the reservation, legislation and planning provisions relating to Zoos Victoria's three properties will allow it to undertake its full range of activities, and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances over the coming decades.

The Coranderrk reserve adjoining Healesville Sanctuary can be considered differently to the three main properties as it is managed by Zoos Victoria as a conservation reserve.



Thank you again for the opportunity of commenting on the proposals. Please don't hesitate in contacting me to discuss any issues raised in our submission or in relation to Zoos Victoria.

Yours faithfully

Jenny Gray  
Chief Executive Officer  
Zoos Victoria