

Submissions Received Perth Zoo Master Plan

As a part of the Master Plan development process, submissions were called from Zoo staff and from Zoo Docents (Volunteers).

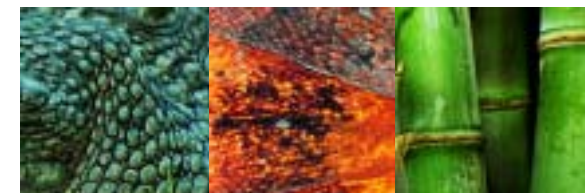
Following is a summary of the submissions received.

| General Category | Submission Name | Summary |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Reptiles, Birds and Native Species | Acquisition of a large Bird and Reptile Collection | Within the next five years the Zoo acquire a major consignment of birds and reptiles (from all continental regions throughout the world). The intent is to invigorate the existing collection. The submission implies the integration of the increased collection throughout the Zoo. |
| | Walk-Through Bird Exhibit in the Savannah | A large walk-in bird exhibit to provide an active and colourful display for visitors as an enhancement of the African Savannah. The area adjoining the tree house through to the bottom elephant viewing bay be fully meshed, housing a number of different exotic avian species. |
| | Tropical Australian Bird and Marine Display in the Rainforest Retreat | Designed to complement a future Cassowary exhibit within the existing rainforest display. The plan is to create a walk-through immersion style exhibit (with the inclusion of a number of smaller exhibits within a main exhibit area), housing a number of different species from Far North Queensland. Also included is the provision of space for a tropical marine aquarium system. |
| | Wedge-tailed Eagle Exhibit | A new Wedge-tailed Eagle (<i>Aquila audax</i>) exhibit to provide the public with a close encounter whilst educating visitors about the plight of large raptors. The location of the exhibit was not specified. |
| | South American Walk-Through Exhibit in the Butterfly House | Convert the old Butterfly House into a tropical South American walk-through enclosure (including birds and possibly small primates). |
| | Redevelopment of Current "Asian" Area of Zoo | Display a variety of Asian reptiles housed in indoor/outdoor enclosures (incorporating features such as a Chinese/Japanese underwater viewing enclosure, a mixed forest exhibit, mixed riverside exhibit, and Buddhist temple garden display) within the Asian area. This will enhance the aesthetic value of this area of the Zoo. It will also provide an enclosure (with more space) in which to house the Reticulated Python. |
| | Australian Section 20-Year Forward Plan | This proposal was designed by the Australian Fauna Section to provide the Zoo with an overall view of the future direction. The focus of the proposal is a collection of ideas brought forward by staff over the last five months. |
| Exotic Mammals | Expansion of Large Exotic Mammal Exhibits, and inclusion of New Exhibits | This proposal incorporates upgrading and expanding enclosures into currently unused space within the Zoo. Also outlines space for the addition of new species to the Zoo. |
| | Redevelopment of Main Lake to form "Congo" Exhibit, and redevelopment of Savannah | Many suggestions have been put forward as part of this proposal, which includes the redevelopment of the main lake area to form part of an "African Congo" exhibit, containing several zones. Also included is a plan outlining the redevelopment of the Savannah, expanding the existing lion and cheetah enclosures, and the addition of new wild dog and mandrill enclosures. |



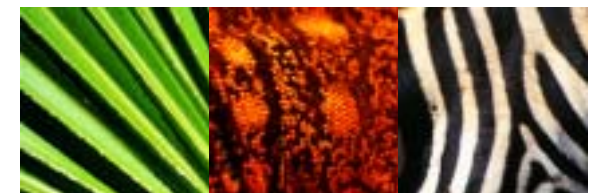
Submissions Received Perth Zoo Master Plan (cont'd)

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| <p>Exotic Mammals</p> | <p>Establishment of an Open-Range Facility to House Large Exotic Mammals</p> | <p>This proposes the establishment of a second property to house the Zoo's collection of large African/Asian animals.</p> |
| | <p>Walk-Through Lemur Exhibit Connected to Savannah</p> | <p>A brief description of exhibit location and requirements for building a free-range lemur exhibit. Proposal to locate the exhibit in the current "World of Birds" area, allowing for the area to be linked to the African Savannah (Lemurs originate from Madagascar). Expand the "walk-through" experience with "feed & photo" opportunity at specified times and feed stations throughout the day.</p> |
| | <p>Walk-Through Lemur Exhibit in Portion of World of Birds Area</p> | <p>A plan to build a Walk-through Lemur Exhibit in part of what is currently the World of Birds area. Would use the current stock of White Fronted Lemurs (<i>Eulemur fulvus albifrons</i>), Black and White Ruffed Lemurs (<i>Varecia variegata variegata</i>) and Ring-tailed Lemurs (<i>Lemur catta</i>). Construction specifications and costings included in the proposal.</p> |
| <p>Mixed-Species Exhibits</p> | <p>Tropical Australia/Asian Themed Exhibits in the Butterfly House</p> | <p>Develop Butterfly House into a display housing several species of plants, mammals, birds, amphibians, fish and insects endemic to the tropical regions of Australia and South-East Asia to provide a transition area from the Australian Bushwalk and Rainforest area to the Asian animals/Great Cats Road.</p> |
| | <p>Multiple Species Exhibit on the Main Lake</p> | <p>Highlights the potential of the Main Lake to play an important role in the management of our Wetlands exhibit if it is fully enclosed. Outlines plans to upgrade it into a multiple-species exhibit (that includes a series of small pools and walkways, an insect and Butterfly House), with space to introduce species not seen at the Zoo for 30–50 years.</p> |
| | <p>Australian/New Guinea Themed Exhibits in the Rainforest Walk</p> | <p>Proposes fully enclosing the Rainforest Retreat with mesh to house a variety of arboreal and terrestrial species based around an Australian/New Guinea theme.</p> |
| | <p>Platypus Exhibit Located at Harmony Farm/behind Walk-Through Aviaries</p> | <p>The Platypus is one of only three existing egg-laying mammals in the world. Proposes locating the exhibit at either the Homestead or behind the Walk-through aviary, incorporating an indoor/outdoor theme, with the outdoor portion being netted, allowing other species to be housed within, providing educational, research and tourism benefits.</p> |
| <p>Multi-Purpose Venues</p> | <p>Function Centre and Water-Based display in the Bird Pavilion</p> | <p>The proposal outlines the redevelopment of the old Bird Pavilion into a function centre (seating capacity of 120–150, with basic kitchen/furniture storage area) and animal display based around water features (not an 'aquarium' as such, but something that can exhibit fish and other aquatic species). The aim of the redevelopment is to use existing space and to produce a facility that is as flexible as possible, allowing for use during normal Zoo hours, Night Zoo and inclement or hot weather.</p> |
| | <p>Redevelopment of Homestead</p> | <p>This proposal recommends the re-development of the Homestead into a fully functional and working showcase model for sustainable living. Suggests Government and industry sustainability initiatives to be show-cased in an integrated venue to raise environmental awareness. The redevelopment concept incorporates features such as passive solar energy, allergy-conscious materials, renewable energy systems, composting toilet facilities, grey water re-use, and permaculture facilities. The proposed new facility would also have the capacity to be used as a venue for corporate functions, etc.</p> |



Submissions Received Perth Zoo Master Plan (cont'd)

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| Miscellaneous | Use of Interactive Displays Around the Zoo | Use of video footage of animals and lasers, sculptures, signage, rides and visual entertainment to maximise the experience enjoyed by visitors to the Zoo. |
| | Food Vending Outlets | The proposal suggests a new restaurant serving a variety of foods to cater for individual nutritional needs and improvements to the Zoo restaurants. |
| | Addition of Video Screens to the Carousel | Proposal to include video monitor(s) around the top of the Carousel so that children can watch videos and sing along to music whilst sitting on the Carousel. |
| | Communicating Staff Location Changes | Suggests options to inform staff of employee location changes, ie a computerised map of staff locations, updated as the need arises, and hard copies posted at important locations around the Zoo (such as the Operations Building, Reception/Admin. and Visitor Services). |
| General Issues | <p><i>Dome Enclosure:</i> Incorporate as part of rainforest theme, filling with potted plants, etc encouraging wild birds to use it as a feeding station. Promoting the "Old Zoo vs New Zoo" philosophy, by keeping the cage in its original (old) position and incorporating it into a (new) Zoo geographic area.</p> <p><i>Bird Feed Shed:</i> Use the existing six glass-fronted enclosures as insect/dry aquarium displays to provide a short-term display, with relatively low expenditure of Zoo funds.</p> <p><i>Existing Butterfly House:</i> Use to display Hummingbirds/other Sunbirds to highlight international conservation issues.</p> <p><i>Main Lake:</i> Fill in and construct another enclosure, similar to existing Silvery Gibbon exhibit, to house another pair of gibbons.</p> | |
| Visitor Services | <p>Proposal focuses on improvements to the appearance and functionality of the Front Entrance, and the services and facilities provided to the public including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Easing congestion at the main entrance cashier point via the creation of a separate undercover, sheltered area for facilities such as Memberships and Adoptions, pram hire, storage of school group food supplies, locker hire, zebra car bookings, etc. Proposed locations for this facility are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The old Train Station - currently 'dead space' which could be enclosed and utilised as an Information Centre/Hire and point-of-sale facility; or • The Front Entry courtyard - this would mean using the current Information Centre as a 'first-point-of-contact' concept. ii) Create an Information/Adoptions and Membership Centre with a dedicated First Aid and Lost Children point. iii) Use existing trailers (currently held in storage sheds) in conjunction with Zebra Cars (improving services to the disabled). iv) Auto-kits with commentary (English and other languages), similar to those used in Art Galleries etc. This would assist and provide useful and educational information for international visitors in their native language. v) Re-open back Bear Road into the bushwalk to allow toilet facilities near NSBP to be used by members of the public. vi) Create a path from the Homestead/Barn area to the toilet facilities near NSBP to improve access to toilets from the existing facility. | |



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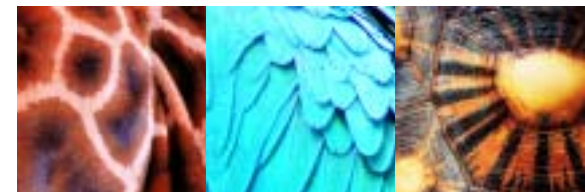
Botanical Collection – Utilisation of the Botanical Estate

This proposal covered many suggestions including:

- Developing Marketing programs focused on botanical themes, aimed at target audiences (ie home gardeners, commercial clients, etc.)
- Increased focus on preservation of Western Australian endangered plant species.
- Sponsorship of interpretive sign strategies (ie environmental protection theme)
- Developing Tropical House as education-related botanical house, focusing on plants which can be used in a variety of applications, ie food, medicine, etc.)
- Zoo web site to include specific information relating to the botanical collection - aimed at target groups (ie research, school groups, etc.)
- Enhance plant-related conservation education to communities and schools through increased use of the Homestead
- Increase use of the view, explore, touch and feel trolley strategy by Docents to engage visitors in experiences relating specifically to the botanical collection.
- Active promotion of the Zoo as a conference centre for national and international science teaching, conservation, botany and horticultural related forums
- Expand "Living Links" program to include science and cross-curricula learning experiences relating to the plant kingdom (primary, secondary and tertiary)
- Possible commercial activities for the future:
 - i. 1900-pay phone service for information relating to the botanical collection as part of an outreach education/commercial approach (50c min?);
 - ii. Horticultural workshops for members of the local gardening community/horticulture students;
 - iii. Weekend workshops for special interest groups from country areas.

Staff Input Questionnaires Suggestions/Issues Raised:

- More trails to enhance the use of available space. More 'informal' animal displays.
- Install single-sided mirror windows in some enclosures to provide the animal with a perception of privacy, whilst still facilitating viewing. Increase visitor understanding about ethical issues re: privacy and shelter (via signage etc.).
- Provide interactive community education stations situated around Zoo, with purpose-built web site access. Stations to include Behind the Scenes information and more in-depth information. Possibly link to existing web site. Matching those signs targeted at younger visitors with other signs targeting the older audience.
- Incorporate 'private' picnic and lunch areas in botanical trails to encourage people into these trails and provide a beautiful setting for lunch (hide-aways). Use sustainable timber in construction of picnic tables. Provide an undercover area near playground; people mover; talking-boxes for vision impaired and other patrons (with information in additional languages); better range of food at Café; more "in-zoo" community activities.
- Locate commercial ventures on Zoo periphery so that visitors can be immersed in the Zoo experience without commercial distractions.
- Consider a walk-through style reptile exhibit, with glassed enclosures allowing visitors to see reptiles above them (in branches etc.), around them and at their feet. More moated exhibits.
- New Mammal Feed shed required.
- Bushwalk (for overseas visitors) should be incorporated into a botanical trail.
- Look at including appropriate water treatment systems in all future exhibits (eg as per penguins) to avoid emptying and refilling pools (eg otters)
- Redevelop baby change areas; provide more seats especially in upper areas of Zoo.
- Relocate Function Centre (adjacent to perimeter to allow for deliveries and pedestrian traffic flow without disturbing Zoo patrons and staff).
- A system of programmed maintenance to maintain standards. Methods of displaying animals are often restricted by individual species' needs.
- Bulldoze the old barn.
- More seating, addition of coffee machines, more maintenance of food/drink vending machines. "Docent run" area (incorporated into Information Centre area at the front of Zoo) for children, with some "touchable" animals (ie guinea pigs, lizards, birds etc use either existing Education animals or new acquisitions).



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- Staff Input Questionnaires** • Purpose-built animal nursery area (including window area for “on display” animals), to accommodate Zoo-born babies that need to be hand-raised. Must include basic accommodation for keepers (ie bed, sink etc.). Require adequate facilities for breeding/hand-rearing of animals. Provide more activities, close interactions for kids such as an activity area purpose-built and run by Docents/Education staff, including preparation of enrichment items, arts and crafts, etc.
- Suggestions/Issues Raised:**
- Maintain a good education collection, including species suitable for “up-close” experiences, ie free-ranging species, platypus/echidna, nocturnal species (eg chuditch), spiders, Rufus Hare Wallabies, frogs etc. Education collection should have threatened species focus, providing opportunities to develop links with the Zoo’s Native Species Breeding Program (NSBP).
 - Develop multi-sensory experiences catering for different social backgrounds/learning styles of visitors, engaging wider community through unique activities (ie Behind the Scenes, interpretive experiences). Provision of both formal and informal learning experiences for Zoo visitors. Continued use of two-dimensional signs, addition of interactive experiences, ie computer-based audio-visual displays, three-dimensional tactile, problem-solving, puzzle/play-oriented experiences.
 - Interpretive experiences to be based on outcomes-focused model of education (ie aim to help people change their behaviour, not teaching inputs, etc.).
 - Three dedicated learning spaces (‘discovery/conservation centres’?) should be incorporated, in the form of ‘exotic mammals conservation education centre’, located near Nocturnal House (perhaps Nocturnal House itself). Second centre should focus on Australian animals (ideally, at existing Homestead site), and third should be dedicated “special needs” space, catering for early childhood and disabled visitors. Special features of this centre should include combined toilet/showers, and educational playground.
 - Australian Bushwalk could be greatly enhanced by Australian plant content (ie indigenous plants used for food/medicine, unusual plants, boab tree etc.). “Plant Project”, incorporating signage and plant trails should be further developed.



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Footnotes

- 1 C Wemmer, "Opportunities Lost: Zoos and the Marsupial That Tried to be a Wolf", *Zoo Biology* 21:1-4 (2002).
- 2 Market Equity Research June 2004
- 3 G Miller, The Last Menageries, *New Scientist*, 19 January 2002, includes a partial quotation from David Hancocks.
- 4 Zoo Future 2005, World Zoo Organisation, 1998, p4
- 5 The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna
- 6 EAPA NSW Standards
- 7 This survey was sent to all Zoo staff requesting feedback on development and the Zoo's future direction.
- 8 This includes specific detail of animal management implications.
- 9 A full discussion about the requirements for a 'country' or open range zoo are not canvassed here, as this Plan is a Master Plan for the Perth Zoo site. The intent of mentioning it here highlights a possible future development that would enhance and enable expansion of Perth Zoo's animal collection, breeding and conservation programs. Substantial costs are involved in the development of an open range zoo and would require separate consideration.
- 10 This relates to the protection of the collection from foxes and cats.
- 11 The international tourist attendance was 22% in 2002 (Market Equity Market Research 2002)
- 12 The upgrade the Echidna enclosure is now complete.
- 13 Proposal for the Re-development of 'The Homestead', submitted through Perth Zoo Education Section.
- 14 'Zoo Camps' is a schools based activity with some commercial return to the Zoo that offers quality education experiences and 'sleepovers' in the Zoo grounds.
- 15 This could incorporate birds that may require re-location as a result of enhancements to the Savannah.
- 16 Bird enclosures are recommended with the netting of the Rainforest Retreat (for tropical birds); a new and larger walk-through Wetlands bird aviary (possibly for non native wetlands species) adjoining the existing Australian Wetlands; a new Cockatoo display area in the Bushwalk; expansion and upgrade of the Bushwalk Walk-through aviary; and a new bird exhibit integrated into the proposed new Function Centre.
- 17 A plan for the upgrade has been developed. Presently the facilities are inadequate for the number of people attending the area.
- 18 The Zoo has a leased property, the Plaistowe Estate on long-term lease from the Western Australian Planning Commission. The Horticulture Branch presently use the property for fodder production.
- 19 'Keeper Exchanges' between Zoos are an accepted way of professional development for Zoo Keeping staff. On-site accommodation benefits the implementation of successful Keeper exchanges and is seen as beneficial.

