

Zoological Parks Authority Bill 2001

Executive Summary

This Bill repeals and replaces the existing Zoo Act – the Zoological Gardens Act, 1972.

The priority reasons why a new Bill is required are:

- The previous Zoo Act was outdated and did not reflect changes that have impacted on the agency, such as the Financial Administration and Audit Act, the Public Sector Management Act, and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act;
- The previous Act restricted Perth Zoo's functions and powers to being only a zoological park. The Zoo now has a broader scope of activity in conservation, research, scientific investigation, education, cultural activities and recreation. The new Bill also allows for and recognises business arrangements and opportunities such as Commonwealth Research Centres;
- The requirements of the agency in corporate governance and accountability have broadened and are incorporated in the Bill;
- In view of the Zoo's commercial activity, the Bill includes strategic policy instruments including Business Plans.

The provisions and thrust of the Zoo Bill are fully consistent with Government policy and with the roles of modern management and responsibilities of Government agencies.

The Bill has been approved by the Zoological Gardens Board in consultation with the Crown Solicitors Office, the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet and Treasury.

The Zoological Parks Authority Bill progressed within the previous State Parliament to the second reading in the Legislative Council. The Bill was supported at the time by both sides of the Parliament following briefings with all parties.

The Bill will allow the Zoo Board to pursue its vision of creating and operating a world-class zoo that integrates conservation, education, research and recreation and continue its outstanding work in the breeding of critically endangered species, both Australian and exotic, and the maintenance and enhancement of its wonderful horticultural collection.