

31 October 2011

Committee Secretary  
Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

***Inquiry into the Quarantine Amendment (Disallowing Permits) Bill 2011***

The Zoo and Aquarium Association is the peak industry body representing zoos and public aquariums in Australia and New Zealand. We write this submission on behalf of our Australian members, nearly 60 zoos, aquariums and fauna parks in all states and territories of Australia.

With respect to the proposed amendment to the Quarantine Act, our Association has concerns for any process which may unreasonably impede our members' ability to import zoo animals into Australia. Australia's zoos collaborate in regional and global breeding programs for the animal species in our care. This requires ongoing importation of many different zoo species into Australia. The Zoo and Aquarium Association works closely with Animal Biosecurity, DAFF, to ensure that Import Risk Analysis processes pertaining to zoo animals are fully robust and scientifically supportable.

The Zoo and Aquarium Association has concerns that the proposed amendment may allow subjective disallowment of Import Risk Analysis policy and recommendations, including those relevant to the zoo industry's business processes. We are also concerned that other Biosecurity Policy determinations pertaining or relevant to the zoo industry may be overturned by parliament, with potential negative impact on our industry's ability to conduct our businesses. As such, we would welcome the opportunity to engage further in discussion with the Senate Committee on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Martin Phillips**  
**Executive Officer**