

26 October 2011

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

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing on behalf of the Taronga Conservation Society Australia (Taronga), which operates both Taronga Zoo and Taronga Western Plain Zoo in NSW, in response ***Inquiry into the Quarantine Amendment (Disallowing Permits) Bill 2011***.

As a stakeholder regulated by the Quarantine Act for the import of fauna that are managed in zoo-based conservation and breeding programs, our core business is directly affected by any changes to this legislation and other developments to processes aimed at implementing and regulating this instrument.

With respect to the proposed amendment to the Quarantine Act, Taronga has concerns for any process which may unreasonably impede our zoos' ability to import zoo animals into Australia. Taronga and Australia's zoos more broadly, 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. Taronga works closely with the Zoo and Aquarium Association, Animal Biosecurity, DAFF, to ensure that Import Risk Analysis processes pertaining to zoo animals are fully robust and scientifically supportable.

Taronga is concerned that the proposed amendment may allow subjective refusal 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.

Taronga recognises the importance of the regulation of international movement of wildlife specimens under the Act and the role it plays in the protection and conservation of biodiversity. As such, we would welcome the opportunity to engage further in discussion with the Senate Committee on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Duffy  
General Manager  
Life Sciences, Research and Conservation

Taronga Zoo Sydney  
Taronga Western Plains  
Zoo Dubbo  
Taronga Foundation  
Research and  
Conservation Centre  
Australian Conservation  
Genetics Centre  
Wildlife Hospital  
Australian Wildlife  
Health Network  
Australian Registry  
of Wildlife Health  
Marine Rescue Unit  
Australian Marine Mammal  
Research Centre  
Education Centre  
Training Institute  
Zoo Mobile