

Media Release

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, the Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Solar Homes



Friday, 25 June 2021

NEW BOARD FOR ZOOS VICTORIA

The Victorian Government has announced the Board members who will oversee the important species conservation, protection and education work of Melbourne Zoo, Healesville Sanctuary and Werribee Open Range Zoo.

The new Board will oversee the delivery of the \$84 million redevelopment at Werribee Open Range Zoo, transforming the skyline with a tree top Sky Safari gondola and ensuring the site becomes Australia's leading open-range zoo.

They will also lead conservation efforts dedicated to fighting wildlife extinction and continue to support wildlife rehabilitation and recovery efforts following natural disasters like bushfires.

The Board will be chaired by Rebecca McKenzie, who is currently the Chief Executive Officer at the City of Glen Eira Council and has already served one term on the Board. Ms McKenzie brings extensive expertise in local government and the public sector, with a focus on organisation development and major project delivery.

Tony Hallam has been appointed Deputy Chairperson and is a highly experienced executive in a wide variety of business and sporting organisations.

Greg Smith has been reappointed together with new members: Professor Anna Meredith, Dr Jennifer Beer, Ms Marsha Thomson, Dr Teresa De Fazio and Ms Vijaya Vaidyanath.

The Board members bring extensive expertise in a range of important areas, including of business and financial management, community relations, education, tourism, major project delivery, nature conservation and animal research, public sector governance, veterinary science and zoology.

The terms of appointment for members will be staggered enabling continuity of existing expertise and experience.

The appointments continue to deliver on the Government's goal of achieving 50 per cent female representation on Boards with six women appointed to the Board.

Three of the proposed appointees have a culturally and linguistically diverse background and one member is Aboriginal, ensuring diverse perspectives are considered.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio

"This new Board will be overseeing exciting projects for Zoos Victoria, including the upcoming \$84 million redevelopment at Werribee Open Range Zoo."

"The variety of experience and backgrounds the Board members have will provide invaluable leadership for Zoos Victoria."