



Victoria Government Gazette

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By Authority L. V. North, Government Printer Melbourne

SPECIAL

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT Zoological Parks and Gardens (Administration) (Charges) Regulations 1995

Notice is given in accordance with section 11 of the Subordinate Legislation Act 1994, that a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared in relation to the Zoological Parks and Gardens (Administration) (Charges) Regulations 1995.

The objectives to be achieved by the proposed Regulations are to—

- (a) establish admission charges that will generate adequate revenue for the essential expenditure of the Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens and the Sir Colin MacKenzie Zoological Park at Healesville; and
- (b) establish a more equitable pricing structure.

The reasons for the proposed Regulations are to ensure that the Board receives adequate revenue from admission charges to cover the costs of the services and facilities it provides to visitors and to introduce a more equitable pricing structure, which ensures that eligibility for discounted or concession charges is consistent with Government policy. Under the present pricing structure, there is an imbalance between some visitor categories and the revenue gained from admission charges. In addition, discounted admission charges and waivers of admission charges are presently applied in a manner which could be seen to be discriminatory. The proposed Regulations introduce a pricing structure that is consistent with those of other similar types of family entertainment and will avoid potential claims of discrimination.

The proposed Regulations amend the Zoological Parks and Gardens (Administration) Regulations 1992 to provide for an increase in the admission charges payable by all categories of visitors to the Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens and the Healesville Sanctuary. The Regulations will also impose admission charges on certain visitor categories, including some disabled persons, who were previously admitted free of charge. This will ensure consistency with charges applied to other pensioner groups.

The RIS considered an increase of 8% in admission charges for all paying visitors, as an alternative to the proposed Regulations. Whilst this alternative would achieve the first part of the objective by providing adequate revenue to fund essential expenditure at the zoos, it would not address the inequities in the pricing structure and the current discriminatory discounting practices would continue. The RIS concluded that the proposed Regulations are the preferred option as they will meet both of the stated objectives.

Public comments are invited on the RIS and accompanying Regulations. Copies may be obtained by contacting Joy Crocker or Lawrence Tai at the Royal Melbourne Zoo on telephone 9285 9300.

Submissions must be in writing and must be received at the following address by no later than 9 a.m. on Monday, 3 July 1995—Chris Larcombe, Chief Executive Officer, Zoological Board of Victoria, Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens, PO Box 74, Parkville 3052.

All submissions will be treated as public documents.

CHRIS LARCOMBE
Chief Executive Officer
Zoological Board of Victoria

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