



# **Robyn Parker MP**

## **Minister for the Environment**

## **Minister for Heritage**

---

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

---

Monday, 31 March 2014

#### **NEW UNIQUE ACCOMMODATION AT ZOOFARI LODGE**

Environment Minister Robyn Parker and Dubbo MP Troy Grant today opened Taronga Western Plains Zoo's 10 new luxury African-inspired lodges at Zoofari Lodge, Dubbo.

Taronga Foundation Patron John Cleese was also on-hand to inspect the \$2.1 million redevelopment that has expanded the overnight capacity to 9000 guests annually, part of the award-winning experience the lodge has provided to guests since 1995.

"Zoofari Lodge was the first zoo-based accommodation experience opened in Australia and continues to evolve and develop, leading the field of zoo and nature-based overnight experiences in Australia," Ms Parker said

"Zoofari Lodge helps underpin the conservation work undertaken at our two Zoos but also supports conservation projects. It provides an opportunity for visitors to learn first-hand about conservation and contribute to our work, simply by staying overnight."

Mr Grant said the new accommodation showcases a slice of Africa right here in the heart of NSW, providing a unique experience that contributes to tourism as well as supports conservation.

"The redevelopment of Zoofari Lodge follows on from the opening of Billabong Camp in April 2013 and the Zoo's win in the National Tourism Award for best attraction.

"The new architecturally-designed safari lodges feature African-inspired decor and have private decks right on the edge of the African Savannah where guests can see Giraffe, Zebra and Eland roaming from the comfort of their lodges.

"Also, the new self-contained Savannah Cabins due to open later this year will provide three-tiers of overnight experiences and establishing the Zoo as an iconic destination in its own right.

Taronga Foundation Patron John Cleese said, "Staying at Zoofari Lodge should be something that everyone puts on their bucket list. I have stayed here and it is such an amazing and unique experience, which most importantly supports conservation."

Zoofari Lodge is located in the grounds of Taronga Western Plains Zoo. For more information about staying overnight at the Zoo visit [www.taronga.org.au/stayovernight](http://www.taronga.org.au/stayovernight).