

Taronga Zoo Replacement of Cable Car Ride

Project Director: Chris Pines
Project Manager: Greg Chronopoulos / Ben Pines
Site Foreman: Rex Gauld
Safety Officer: Peter Lucas



Client: **Taronga Zoo**

Location: **Mosman, NSW**

Project Cost: **\$7,000,000**

In 2001 CC Pines designed and constructed a new Cable Car ride at Taronga Zoo.

The client, Taronga Zoo, was represented by NSW Department of Commerce.

The design process was completed by CC PINES and construction commenced once the final design was approved.

This project presented many challenges, the position of the towers were adjacent to animal enclosures and in the way of the zoo patrons.

The equipment involved including the towers, cable, gondolas and the top and bottom stations were all installed without causing interruptions to normal zoo operations.

The cable alone was 50mm thick and the full length of it weighed 10 tons. After installation over the towers it had to be spliced over 50m.

CC Pines, in their design were able to implement many of their own improvements to the original Functional Design Brief (FDB). Some of these included six-seat Gondolas rather than four-seat which provided more room for strollers and other large items and could transport a greater number of passengers, a separate control room and sound absorbing ceiling material which dampened ambient noise.

A unique design feature originating with CC Pines, enabled the cable cars to drop to a very low loading and unloading speed at the top and bottom stations which accommodated children, the elderly and disabled passengers. Traditional alpine lifts cater for experienced skiers and would not have suited Taronga Zoo's patrons.



The lower station which was to become the "Drive Station" required significant excavation for a disabled lift and also make room for the new lift's steep descent into and out of the station.

All of the main controls and computer for the lift were housed in the Drive Station, inside the staff-only control room which was suggested by CC Pines to be the most secure solution for the brain of the contrivance.



This photo shows the finished product from Tower 8 in the foreground and Sydney Harbour in the background.

The ride is approximately 750m long and rises approximately 140m.

The project was completed on time and CC Pines remained engaged to operate the ride for six months and maintain it for two years.