

Vicki Melville

From: David Allen
Sent: Wednesday, 23 March 2011 9:09 a.m.
To: Tim Knox; Chris Carson; Matthew Stone; Rachelle Linwood; Vicki Melville; Stephen Butcher; Colin Holden; Andrew Harrison
Subject: China: Panda bid

FYI regarding the panda bid, MFAT (Rebecca Needham) has informed me that "the PM's office advised us a few days ago that the panda project will be put in abeyance for a while - given the much more important priorities for the public purse at the moment."

David

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NEEDHAM, Rebecca (NAD)

From: DUNN, Pam (BEI)
Sent: Wednesday, 16 March 2011 4:02 p.m.
To: NEEDHAM, Rebecca (NAD); PIERARD, Alexandra (BEI)
Cc: MORTON, Grahame (NAD); ELDER, Chris (NAD); WORKER, Carl (BEI)
Subject: RE: PANDAS

[IN CONFIDENCE]

Thanks RN.

We can let the panda folk here know that we remain interested, just not for the time being. Given that the Centre was badly affected by the Wenchuan earthquake (the pandas survived a lot better than many of their keepers), they should be quite understanding.

Pam

-----Original Message-----

From: NEEDHAM, Rebecca (NAD)
Sent: Wednesday, 16 March 2011 5:50 a.m.
To: DUNN, Pam (BEI); PIERARD, Alexandra (BEI)
Cc: MORTON, Grahame (NAD); ELDER, Chris (NAD); WORKER, Carl (BEI)
Subject: FW: PANDAS

[IN CONFIDENCE]

Hi Panda Team

Pls see message below from Maarten Wevers advising that the PM has understandably decided to put the panda project on hold for a while, given more important public funding priorities at present.

We'd be grateful for your views in due course on whether there is any need to formally convey this to the Chinese side (taking into consideration also Maarten's comment that the file might get dusted off again in the future).

Thanks
Rebecca

-----Original Message-----

From: Maarten Wevers [mailto:Maarten.Wevers@dpmc.govt.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 15 March 2011 5:25 p.m.
To: Jo Gascoigne, Tony Lynch; NEEDHAM, Rebecca (NAD)
Cc: Lesley Hamilton
Subject: PANDAS

Just to let you know that, following a short conversation with the PM just now, the panda project will be put in abeyance for a while - much more important priorities for the public purse at the moment.

Jo - should I call Karen Fifield do you think, or will you?

Thanks for all your help to get things to this point. I suspect the file might get dusted off again in the future.

Maarten

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SP(2)(g)(i)

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

out of scope

Thanks
Rebecca

From: PIERARD, Alexandra (BEI)
Sent: Friday, 26 March 2010 8:44 p.m.
To: MORTON, Grahame (ASIA)
Cc: NEEDHAM, Rebecca (ASIA); WARD, Geoff (ASIA); ~~TONY~~ Lynch; DUNN, Pam (BEI);
AINSWORTH, Steve (BEI); WORKER, Carl (BEI); REID, Nicola (BEI)
Subject: China: Pandas

[SEEMAIL] [RESTRICTED]

Hi Grahame

Some thoughts on the panda proposition below.

Cheers

lex

Panda Diplomacy
Approximately 1,600 pandas live in the wild while 120 are in Chinese breeding facilities and zoos. Pandas are China's unofficial national mascot and are imbued with great symbolism. China gifted several pairs of pandas in the late 1900s, but since the '80s China has been loaning panda pairs at a cost of approximately USD1 million per year for 10 years with the ostensible aim of promoting and aiding its panda breeding programmes. Agreements are signed to this effect, which also ensure any cubs are the property of the PRC. Panda diplomacy has recently gained a more pragmatic side, but China's "gifting" of pandas is still widely viewed as a goodwill gesture and pandas are highly sought after. Other examples of rare animal diplomacy are few. Reportedly the government of the Seychelles Islands last year gifted two Aldabra giant tortoises to Shanghai Expo (now resident in Shanghai zoo) in appreciation for China's assistance with the country's Expo-related costs.

The pandas were quarantined in China and Australia;

and vaccinated for rabies. Australian keepers visited China to learn from the Chinese keepers and then Chinese handlers/keepers travelled with the pandas and stayed on to facilitate their "settling in". The Chinese stipulated that the timing of the arrival coincide with the Adelaide climate being closest to their natural habitat. Adelaide zoo also built an AU\$8 million enclosure including bamboo plants and refrigerated rocks to simulate their habitat in China. Australia maintain a sufficiently large renewable supply of bamboo food supply.

Pandas apparently do not suffer from many exotic diseases and there are established procedures for importing zoo animals, which have lived in controlled environments.

s6(b)

Irrelevant

Importing Giant Pandas into New Zealand Requirements for importing animals into NZ depend on the type of animal, where it's from and if there is an existing import health standard (required under the Biosecurity Act). The risks of importing any new animal would need to be identified and managed. Until some initial research is undertaken, it will be difficult to determine what these risks are and how they can be overcome.

s9(2)(g)(i)

(NB: Under New Zealand biosecurity legislation, Parliament took the deliberate step of giving the Director General rather than the Minister the authority to issue import health standards to ensure that New Zealand SPS measures in the words of the SPS Agreement truly are "only applied to the extent necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health based on scientific principles." This legislation is deliberately designed to remove any opportunity for incorporation of political interpretation of science in our SPS measures). MAFBNZ will be able to advise, but our searches suggest there is currently no import health standard for importation of giant pandas from China. There is a MAF import health standard already in place for red pandas (a different species) from all countries as well as some other zoo animals like tarantulas, so under under certain circumstances this could well be possible. There is an obligation under the HSNO Act to prevent the importation into New Zealand of any new organism that has not been approved by the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) so ERMA will also need to be consulted.

s9(2)(g)(i)

Irrelevant

NEEDHAM, Rebecca (NAD)

From: DUNN, Pam (BEI)
Sent: Wednesday, 16 February 2011 8:50 p.m.
To: NEEDHAM, Rebecca (NAD); PIERARD, Alexandra (BEI)
Cc: CLARK, Tony (NAD); EVANS, David (BEI)
Subject: RE: Shouning social forestry project/panda folk

[IN CONFIDENCE]

Tks RN.
place next time he goes to Fujian.

And I'm sure the ambassador would love to revisit the

Maybe we should try and find some ODA cooperation project in the western provinces with a trees angle instead.

From: NEEDHAM, Rebecca (NAD)
Sent: Wednesday, 16 February 2011 7:20 a.m.
To: DUNN, Pam (BEI); PIERARD, Alexandra (BEI)
Cc: CLARK, Tony (NAD); EVANS, David (BEI)
Subject: RE: Shouning social forestry project/panda folk

[IN CONFIDENCE]

Hi Pam/Alex

Yes the Shouning Social Forestry Project was something I was involved in the early stages.

On SFA's desire to re-start forestry cooperation more generally, MAF has indicated (pls see attached email exchange) that they are are prepared to do their bit

"The FIDA TAG meeting revealed nothing of interest from industry to raise with SFA - representatives on TAG are forest owners and wood processors - and SFA has no responsibility for the trade and economic issues of interest to NZ forest product exports.

Regards

Rebecca

From: DUNN, Pam (BEI)
Sent: Tuesday, 15 February 2011 11:06 p.m.
To: NEEDHAM, Rebecca (NAD); PIERARD, Alexandra (BEI)

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s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(b)(ii)

s6(b)(ii)

Cc: CLARK, Tony (NAD); EVANS, David (BEI)
Subject: SFA: Shouning social forestry project/panda folk

[IN CONFIDENCE]

Hi RN - that reminds me. We also owe the SFA a response on possible cooperation on forestry, which they raised during our panda meeting. They recalled the succesful ODA Shouning social forestry project in Fujian (late 1990s) and would love to do something similar again. They were also keen that we re-visit the place to see for ourselves.

I couldn't find any references to it
was it one of your projects when you were second sec?

Fujian is of course no longer one of our ODA provinces but perhaps we could look at other possibilities for cooperation on the agritech side.

Cheers
Pam

From: NEEDHAM, Rebecca (NAD)
Sent: Monday, 14 February 2011 3:26 a.m.
To: DUNN, Pam (BEI); PIERARD, Alexandra (BEI)
Subject: RE: Embassy rebuffs panda 'exploitation' rap

[IN CONFIDENCE]

Hi Pam and Alex

Thanks for this. By way of brief update, we are still at the pre-RFP (request for proposals) stage of the process, with expressions of interest having been received from Wgtn Zoo and Chch Arana Park.

Once we have a nominated zoo, can you remind me what the next stage of the process would be at the China end?

Thanks
Rebecca

From: DUNN, Pam (BEI)
Sent: Friday, 11 February 2011 9:10 p.m.
To: PIERARD, Alexandra (BEI); NEEDHAM, Rebecca (NAD)
Subject: Embassy rebuffs panda 'exploitation' rap

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Embassy rebuffs panda 'exploitation' rap

Source: Global Times
[08:11 February 10 2011]

Comments

By Yang Ruoyu

NEEDHAM, Rebecca (NAD)

From: PIERARD, Alexandra (BEI)
Sent: Monday, 14 February 2011 8:48 p.m.
To: NEEDHAM, Rebecca (NAD)
Cc: DUNN, Pam (BEI); KENNINGTON, Neil (BEI)
Subject: Embassy rebuffs panda 'exploitation' rap
Attachments: Panda BEI Action Plan July 2010 - _v1.DOC; Pandas Cable 17 August 2010_v1.DOC

[IN CONFIDENCE]

Hi Rebecca

We've updated and attached our Panda Planning Doc since we first sent it through to you to reflect BEI action completed/to complete.

You'll see our last action on this was on 17 August : establishing contact and seeking advice from CWCA and SFA. The next step was to confirm a recipient NZ zoo.

- Once recipient zoo is confirmed we will formally notify CWCA and SFA and seek their advice on a contact point at the Wulong panda reserve.

- During our meeting with these departments on 17 August CWCA advised that the NZ zoo, once confirmed, would need to maintain contact directly with CWCA and the China Zoological Association so we'll also seek contact points for these organisations so zoo can establish contact directly.

- Once these contact points are established the zoo will need to submit a formal request (we were advised there is no template for this, as such)

- CWCA encouraged Embassy, once zoo confirmed, to make an advance visit to the Wulong Giant Panda Breeding Centre in Chengdu, so this is on the agenda.

s 6(b)(ii)

Cheers

Alex

From: NEEDHAM, Rebecca (NAD)
Sent: Monday, 14 February 2011 3:26 a.m.
To: DUNN, Pam (BEI); PIERARD, Alexandra (BEI)
Subject: RE: Embassy rebuffs panda 'exploitation' rap

[IN CONFIDENCE]

Hi Pam and Alex

Thanks for this. By way of brief update, we are still at the pre-RFP (request for proposals) stage of the process, with expressions of interest having been received from Wgtn Zoo and Chch Arana Park.

Once we have a nominated zoo, can you remind me what the next stage of the process would be at the China end? Also, do we know how far down the queue for pandas we are likely to be? I recall that Singapore and Canada are both ahead of us. Are you aware of any others?

26/04/2011

Thanks
Rebecca

From: DUNN, Pam (BEI)
Sent: Friday, 11 February 2011 9:10 p.m.
To: PIERARD, Alexandra (BEI); NEEDHAM, Rebecca (NAD)
Subject: Embassy rebuffs panda 'exploitation' rap

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Embassy rebuffs panda 'exploitation' rap

Source: Global Times
[08:11 February 10 2011]

Comments

By Yang Ruoyu

The Chinese Embassy in the United Kingdom dismissed allegations from an advocacy group that China's plan to loan two pandas to the Edinburgh Zoo was animal abuse.

A spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in the UK said in a statement the criticism lacked factual basis and objectivity.

An official with the embassy told the Global Times that sending the two pandas, Tiantian and Yangguang, is a meaningful gesture to both China and the UK.

The official said it is the first time that pandas will be sent to the UK after 17 years, and China believes that it could pave the way for lasting friendship between the two countries.

China Wildlife Conservation Association signed a 10-year protection and research cooperation agreement in London last month with the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland. According to the plan, China will send the two pandas to the Edinburgh Zoo in Scotland later this year.

Will Travers, CEO of the Born Free Foundation, called the plan "foolhardy" and "little more than animal exploitation," UK-based Deadline News Agency reported January 23.

Travers said the Edinburgh Zoo does not have the budget to maintain an ample bamboo supply for the pandas that need 30 to 100 kilos a day. That adds up to £70,000 (\$112,382) a year, he said.

Gary Wilson, chief operating officer at the Edinburgh Zoo, was quoted as saying that Scotland's climate might help the panda's produce cubs and improve their reintroduction into the wild because it closely resembles the natural habitat in China.

The embassy spokesperson said China is committed to the protection of giant pandas, and the conservation cooperation with the UK will be conducive to the protection of the rare species.

NEEDHAM, Rebecca (NAD)

From: Maarten Wevers [Maarten.Wevers@dpmc.govt.nz]
Sent: Friday, 28 January 2011 11:55 a.m.
To: Craig Doherty; Jo Gascoigne; Tony Lynch; NEEDHAM, Rebecca (NAD)
Cc: Julian Grey
Subject: PANDAS

Good morning all

I've just spoken to Lynn Anderson, CEO of Orana Wildlife Trust.

The short answer is that she indicated that, unless the Crown were to meet all costs associated with the Panda project, Orana would not be able to contemplate undertaking it. I responded that that option was not on the table. I then asked her to confirm that, in those circumstances, Orana would not be able to continue with its "interest" in hosting the pandas. She agreed.

During the conversation, which was open and cordial, Lynn confirmed that although she had spoken to Mayor Parker about the project, the council had not considered it formally, and because of the earthquake, CCC could not make any contribution. Lynn did not give any indication that there had been any discussions with the Orana Board, or other possible funders.

s9(2)(ba)

Jo. When we hear finally from Auckland, we should be in a position to progress a little.

I also spoke to Karen Fifield at Wellington this morning (who had been in touch quite independently) and said we hoped to get back to her more formally in a couple of weeks.

Maarten

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S9(2)(a)

From:
To:

'Maarten Wevers'

CC:
Date: 17/03/2011 1:32 p.m.
Subject: RE: PANDAS

NZ Embassy in Beijing will let the panda folk in China know that we remain interested, just not for the time being. Given that the Sichuan Centre was badly affected by the Wenchuan earthquake (the pandas apparently survived a lot better than many of their keepers), they should be quite understanding.

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: Thursday, 17 March 2011 1:29 p.m.
To: 'Maarten Wevers';
Cc: :
Subject: RE: PANDAS

Thanks Maarten.

Senior Policy Analyst
Policy, Regulatory and Ethnic Affairs Branch The Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua
Direct Dial: www.dia.govt.nz

-----Original Message-----

From: Maarten Wevers ;
Sent: Thursday, 17 March 2011 11:04 a.m.
To:
Cc: :
Subject: RE: PANDAS

For the record, I have just spoken to Karen Fifield, CEO of Wellington Zoo, to let her know that, in light of recent events and the fiscal pressures they have produced, the PM's project to investigate the possible acquisition of panda for a New Zealand zoo has had to be put on hold. Karen understood completely.

I said that it was hoped that in perhaps a year or two, the project might be resuscitated. and thanked her for the effort that had been put in - which I hoped would not in the end be wasted.
Maarten

16/03/2011

>>> 9:40 a.m. >>>

Will let you know in due course whether we see any need to unwind things with the Chinese side.

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 16 March 2011 9:38 a.m.
To: 'Maarten Wevers';
Cc: :
Subject: RE: PANDAS

S9(2)(a)

Hi Panda Team - nice working with you all too. Fully understand and had been expecting this decision. I am sure there will be a time for the pandas - just not right now.

Rebecca

-----Original Message-----

From: s9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 16 March 2011 9:06 a.m.
To: 'Maarten Wevers';
Cc:
Subject: RE: PANDAS

Hi Maarten

Spooky, but I was thinking about the need to make a call to Karen on my way to work this morning. I think a call from you might be best. Its going to be a disappointment to them, and receiving the news with the appropriate gravity is I think would be more sensitive. However, am happy to do it if you cannot.

Its been very nice working with you (and .. and

Regards

s9(2)(a)

Senior Policy Analyst
Policy, Regulatory and Ethnic Affairs Branch The Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua
Direct Dial: www.dia.govt.nz

-----Original Message-----

From: Maarten Wevers ;
Sent: Tuesday, 15 March 2011 5:25 p.m.
To:
Cc: ;
Subject: PANDAS

Just to let you know that, following a short conversation with the PM just now, the panda project will be put in abeyance for a while - much more important priorities for the public purse at the moment.

- should I call Karen Fifield do you think, or will you?

Thanks for all your help to get things to this point. I suspect the file might get dusted off again in the future.

Maarten

NEEDHAM, Rebecca (NAD)

From: NEEDHAM, Rebecca (NAD)
Sent: Wednesday, 19 January 2011 12:54 p.m.
To: DUNN, Pam (BEI); PIERARD, Alexandra (BEI)
Cc: MORTON, Grahame (NAD)
Subject: RE: Pandas: Edinburgh Zoo

[SEEMAIL] [SENSITIVE]

Thanks Pam

s9(2)(g)(i)

We are back into action on pandas at the Wellington end, with a DPMC meeting planned for sometime next week. Wgtn and Chch zoos have indicated interest in being included in the formal Request for Proposal (RFP) process, which starts on 24 Jan, with responses due 18 Feb. The RFP is being managed by Craig Doherty in Internal Affairs who I understand has considerable experience in this area.

Also see article below. It's clear from this, and from our discussions with Chris West, that the Zoo is in this position because central government support for the project was pulled at the last minute by the incoming government. This is something we have already identified as a risk and needs to be avoided in our panda bid.

Pandas will leave Adelaide Zoo in debt for a decade

- By Clare Peddie
- From: *The Advertiser*
- December 27, 2010 1:44AM
- [18 comments](#)

Funi (pictured) and Wang Wang have brought tourists to Adelaide Zoo - and a decade of debt. Picture: *The Advertiser* Source: *The Advertiser*

- Zoo forced to borrow to pay panda bill
- Animals contribute almost \$200m to state
- Federal promise of \$5m never received

ADELAIDE Zoo has a giant panda debt it will be paying off for a decade, the non-profit conservation charity says.

On the first anniversary of the pandas' Adelaide debut, Zoos SA chief executive Dr Chris West said the zoo was "not floating on a sea of panda dollars" and borrowed \$6.7 million to turn the dream into reality, reported *AdelaideNow*.

"We are a charity, bringing very significant tourism revenue into South Australia but we are not loaded ourselves," he said.

"We are stretched - against a balanced business plan - and will be repaying the bank for a while. The time-frame for paying off the panda debt depends on several factors including visitation, other revenue and panda babies, but at the current rate it looks like it will be closer to 10 years than to five."

Giant pandas Wang Wang and Funi are on loan from the Chinese Government for 10 years.

The Federal Government is paying \$1 million each year to the Chinese Government for the international breeding program that aims to save the critically endangered species.

A further \$5 million promised in the lead-up to the 2007 Federal Election by then Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer, never arrived because Labor won.

The State Government invested \$18.9 million in the new entrance and fence, including a conference centre, but the zoo was left to find the \$8 million for the panda exhibit from sponsors, donors and a bank loan.

The pandas have been a major drawcard for the zoo, pushing up the number of visitors by 70 per cent from 349,000 visitors a year to 595,000 in the first panda year.

Zoo membership has grown 25 per cent to 32,500. More than 30 per cent of visitors came from interstate or overseas, most commonly from Victoria, NSW, Queensland, Western Australia and Europe.

Dr West said that's 180,000 people a year, bringing an estimated \$192 million dollars to the state.

Tourism Minister John Rau agreed pandas were driving a "healthy rise in visitors from outside SA who have been spending money in our state".

"With only a handful of international zoos currently exhibiting this species, they are a real drawcard for South Australia and provide benefits for hotels, shops, restaurants and other tourist attractions," he said.

irrelevant to request

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WELLINGTON

Zoo

January 6th, 2011

Maarten Weavers
Chief Executive
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Executive Wing
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6011

Dear Maarten,

Thank you for your letter of November 19th, 2010 in regard to the acquisition of Giant pandas for New Zealand.

I am writing to inform you that Wellington Zoo Trust is very keen to be considered further for this project. We have supported the Prime Minister in this project every time it has been discussed in the media as we feel that the acquisition of Giant panda will be of great benefit to New Zealand and that Wellington is the place they should be.

In support of our request to host two Giant panda I would like to supply the following information for you to consider.

All the major capital city zoos have had pandas over the last three decades (e.g. London, Paris, Berlin, Washington DC and Tokyo). Given New Zealand's relationship with China (especially the free trade agreement) Wellington is well-positioned to join these other capital cities in hosting Giant pandas as they will play a large part in diplomatic relations between the two countries.

As Lonely Planet's 'coolest little capital in the world' and fourth best city to visit in 2011, we believe that hosting the world's most iconic animal fits with this reputation. Her Worship Celia Wade-Brown was a long term member of the Wellington Zoo Trust Board until her election as Mayor of Wellington in October 2010 and we have her approval to inform you of our intention to be considered further for this project.

We believe that housing Giant panda is consistent with Wellington Zoo's overall strategy and goals of being the 'best little Zoo in the world'. As the capital city zoo we see our long term objective as being a key player in tourism, science, conservation and community engagement for New Zealand.

Wellington Zoo has won a number of prestigious awards over the last two years for sustainability and environmental and business leadership and our new capital projects have also won architectural and construction awards at the highest level. We were Sustainable Business of the Year in 2009 and we won the inaugural Encore Business Environmental Leadership award in 2010. The Nest Te Kōhanga won Best New Exhibit at the Regional Zoo Industry Awards in 2010 – the first time a New Zealand zoo has won this award. Wellington Zoo prides itself on delivering consistent quality experiences and with developing healthy and resilient partnerships.

Wellington Zoo has already had discussions and exchanged information with other zoos who house Giant panda, particularly Adelaide Zoo, which is an excellent comparative study in terms of size and visitation levels. Our Board Chair, CFO and General Manager Operations have visited Adelaide Zoo to see their Giant panda exhibit and Wellington Zoo paid for Dr Chris West, CEO of Zoos South Australia, to visit Wellington to discuss Adelaide Zoo's Giant panda experience with us and local and central government officials. Dr Chris West and I are members of the regional zoo industry Board and Wellington Zoo's Collections Coordinator sits on the regional zoo Species Management Committee. Our Group Manager Commercial Development is the Regional Convener of the zoo industry Marketing Specialist Advisory Group and our Group Manager Visitor Experience completed a study tour of USA zoos in 2010 - notably Washington and San Diego, two Giant panda host zoos.

We have also had discussions with project management firm, Hassell, in Australia who are willing to share the feasibility study they produced for Adelaide Zoo. A member of our Trust Board is a Director in Corporate Finance for Deloitte and she is willing to work with the partner organisations of this project on the feasibility studies.

We are five years through a ten year capital redevelopment programme for the Zoo which includes a redeveloped Asian precinct. We believe this area could easily be extended to house Giant pandas in context. As a species Giant panda complement Asian animals in our existing collection which includes Malayan sun bears, Nepalese red pandas, Asian otters and Sumatran tigers. Wellington Zoo has already designated an area of the Zoo which could be developed for a Giant panda exhibit. The Asian precinct in Wellington Zoo is located next to the New Zealand precinct which would be an ideal link for this project. We have long term relationships with world renowned zoo exhibit designers and local project and construction firms who would be more than willing to assist us with this project. We have also had ongoing success with fundraising and commercial relationships which would also be key components for this project.

Wellington has a suitable climate for Giant pandas, similar to their native mountains of Sichuan Province. Wellington has mild weather thus the Giant pandas would not have to be restricted to air-conditioned rooms during the summer as they do in some other zoos.

Wellington also has a suitable climate for growing bamboo, especially two of the giant panda's favourites (*Bambusa oldhami* and *Phyllostachys spp.*). The NZ Bamboo Society is located in Wellington and Wellington Zoo would explore partnering with the Society. We have had advice from them before regarding our red panda diet. We also believe that growing bamboo to assist the Zoo is an excellent way to involve the community, similar to community eucalyptus growing for feeding koala in zoos in Australia. We also have approval from ERMA to import bamboo should that be required in special circumstances.

Wellington Zoo has the staff knowledge to manage Giant pandas. Professor Alan Dixon, formerly the Director of Conservation Research at San Diego Zoo, is a world-expert on Giant panda breeding and currently sits on the Wellington Zoo Trust Board as well as being a Professor at Victoria University. He has significant connections to academics in China, especially Beijing. Mauritz Basson, the General Manager Operations of Wellington Zoo, was previously a curator at Johannesburg Zoo where he worked with several bear species, including polar bears, grizzly bears, sun bears and Asiatic black bears.

Wellington Zoo is one of a handful of zoos that have successfully bred and reared sun bears, evidence of our expertise in bear husbandry. Wellington Zoo is the only zoo in New Zealand that currently holds bears of any kind so we have the husbandry expertise necessary to host such precious animals as Giant panda. Wellington Zoo also has a conservation relationship with Free the Bears Asia in regard to sun bears and we have provided husbandry and education advice to that organisation in Vietnam and Cambodia.

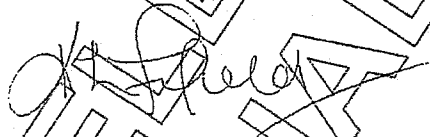
The Nest Te Kōhanga, our new, award winning, state of the art animal hospital, is the perfect place for care of Giant panda. Veterinary excellence is one of the conditions required by the Chinese government for panda host zoos. The Nest Te Kōhanga has featured on television's Wild Vets, and is staffed by qualified vets and vet nurses. Wellington Zoo also has a three year veterinary masters programme in Wildlife and Zoo Medicine for qualified vets in partnership with Massey University - the only one of its kind in New Zealand.

Currently all zoos that have pandas on loan from China have a research focus. Wellington Zoo has strong connections to Victoria University and Massey University in biological sciences and veterinary science; a Giant panda research team would convene to select a research angle that is point of difference for Wellington Zoo. China currently loans pandas to countries for 10 years (they arrive as juveniles) and this results in two-way information exchange about Giant pandas. Since the new era of loans began at San Diego Zoo in 1998, conservation advances have been significant. Researchers (Chinese and loan countries) have unlocked the breeding mysteries, as Giant pandas historically were poor breeders in captivity, and captive births continue to increase each year. Wellington Zoo sees supports this as a contribution to conservation of Giant panda.

Anecdotally we believe there is an appetite in the Wellington community to support Wellington Zoo to host Giant panda. Positively Wellington Tourism has expressed their support as have other supporters of the Zoo in the community such as WWF New Zealand, various Probus and Rotary clubs, and of course, our own membership. While we can quickly start the necessary investigations, we are aware that we will be guided by central government especially in regard to engaging with the Chinese Government and key interests in Wellington to ensure success.

In conclusion I would like to confirm Wellington Zoo Trust's wish to be considered further as a host zoo for Giant panda and we look forward to discussing this exciting project further with you. If you require any further information before the next phase of discussions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,


Karen Field
Chief Executive

Email: karen.field@wellingtonzoo.com

Mobile phone number:

33 Bowen St, PO Box 1473, Wellington
DDI: + 4 462 4235 | Mobile: +64 21 245 6241
Email: caleb.johnstone@med.govt.nz | Web: www.med.govt.nz

newzealand.govt.nz

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

19 November 2010

Karen Fifield
Wellington Zoo
200 Daniell Street
Newtown
WELLINGTON 6021

Dear Karen

I understand that Wellington Zoo may be interested in procuring two giant pandas from China. This letter is being sent to you, and a small number of other New Zealand Zoos, to provide background information on the process the government proposes to follow to take this project forward.

As you will be aware from contacts you have had with the Department of Internal Affairs and recent media comments, this is a project of considerable interest to the Prime Minister. The Government now wishes to make contact formally with potential host Zoos to determine whether they are interested in hosting the two pandas.

The attached document outlines various factors that you may wish to take into account in your decision-making and discussions with key stake-holders.

For the purposes of clarity, I can let you know that I am writing as well to Orana Wildlife Park, Auckland Zoo, and Hamilton Zoo to gauge initial interest in hosting the two pandas. I would appreciate an indication of whether or not you wish to be considered further for this project by 14 January 2011.

Once we have heard back from all parties we are approaching, a decision will be made on whether or not to begin a formal Request For Proposal process.

Yours sincerely

Maarten Wevers
Chief Executive

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Background information for potential host zoo for giant pandas

Introduction

The New Zealand Government is eager to support the acquisition of giant pandas for conservation and display purposes in a New Zealand zoo, and wants to ensure that the best possible home for the pandas is selected. This document provides information for prospective host zoos and sets out the known factors in the process to acquire a pair of giant pandas from China.

The Government is seeking an indication of the level of interest in the New Zealand zoo community before deciding whether to issue a formal Request For Proposal. The information provided in this document is intended to assist you and your management colleagues, and staff, and your governing board, major funders and other stakeholders in reaching a decision over whether your zoo wishes to put itself forward as a potential host zoo.

We currently have a unique opportunity for a New Zealand zoo to join the small number of international zoos which currently host giant pandas. As discussed below, procurement of giant pandas is a major undertaking with many unknowns. Any prospective host zoo needs to be capable of meeting the general requirements set out in this document, and able to demonstrate a high level of commitment.

s 9(2)(j)

Background

In July 2010, the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. John Key discussed the possibility of New Zealand procuring two giant pandas with Premier Wen Jiabao and Vice President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China. China's willingness

s 6(a)
s 6(b)

s 6(b)

The New Zealand Government will lead the initial relationship building phase, and provide on-going diplomatic support.

s 9(2)(j)

An application to import giant pandas as a new organism into New Zealand has been approved by the Environmental Risk Management Authority. The approval is not

specific to a particular zoo but will allow the import of giant pandas into any suitable facility in the country.

Process

The proposed host zoo must be nominated by the New Zealand Government and agreed by China.

The New Zealand Embassy in Beijing and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will facilitate the initial contact, and provide support during negotiations. High-level political support is essential and the Government has committed to providing this support throughout the process.

Consideration of the information in this document by your governance board and stakeholders will, we trust, allow you to reach a view on whether or not further engagement in this process is a viable option for your zoo. We are seeking indications of interest in hosting the giant pandas by 14 January 2011. Depending on the level of interest, a Request For Proposal process may be initiated.

Anticipated establishment costs

The costs outlined below are, necessarily, indicative only. They are represented as possible ranges (all figures are in New Zealand dollars unless otherwise stated).

Project plan and project management

A feasibility study may be part of a project plan. Its purpose will be to consider how to manage the project, not whether the project is viable - this decision must be made at the outset before negotiations begin. The scope of the project plan will be influenced by the scale of the development required. A project management team will need to be appointed, with sufficient capacity to cover a potentially long and demanding process. Adelaide Zoo dedicated two full time equivalents of senior staff time to the project for three years.

Initial negotiations and relationship building

This stage will involve visits from Chinese panda conservation officials and return visits to China by the host zoo (CEO, head veterinary staff and keepers). Support will be provided by the New Zealand Embassy staff in Beijing,

○ This includes construction of an appropriate panda enclosure.

s9(2)(j)

However, the New Zealand zoo site and context will determine the nature and scale of the required facility.

A bamboo plantation will need to be established or available to provide food for the pandas.

Zoo facilities will, we expect, need to be constructed or upgraded to meet anticipated increased visitor numbers. The scope, and therefore the cost, of improvements will depend on the zoo's current facilities.

s9(2)(j)

s9(2)(b)(ii)

Marketing and promotion

Decisions about the nature and scope of marketing and promotion will need to be made by the host zoo. Presumably they will reflect the current marketing strategy and sponsorship arrangements.

s(b)

Relocation of pandas

A cargo or wide-body aircraft will be required to transport the pandas from China to New Zealand.

s9(2)(b)(ii)

via a sponsorship deal. Additional freighting to and from airports within China and New Zealand will also be required. Panda travel crates are supplied by the Chinese side, but costs are met by the host zoo.

Chinese keepers accompany the pandas and remain based at the host zoo for up to several months.

s(b)

s9(2)(b)(ii)

s9(2)(j)

Anticipated on-going costs

On-going welfare, housing and breeding programme

A major component of being a giant panda host zoo is running a breeding programme. A conservation focus is essential, as is experience in breeding rare and endangered animals.

Additional staff, including specialist keepers, may need to be hired.

The bamboo plantation will need to be maintained and additional food sourced in the event of plantation failure.

The pandas will need to be insured – estimated costs of this are currently unknown.

s9(2)(j)

s9(2)(j)

The usual life of panda agreements is a minimum of ten years, although options to extend the term are not uncommon.

s9(2)(j)

s9(2)(j)

Benefits

The benefits of hosting giant pandas are not restricted to the host zoo. The local economy stands to gain from increased visitor numbers, both domestic and international, and an elevated profile.

s6(a)

The host zoo will gain the opportunity to engage with conservation and panda experts from around the world and to represent New Zealand on the international stage.

s9(2)(j)

Risks

The feasibility of being a host zoo over the term of the agreement (a minimum of ten years) needs to be considered. Sustained visitor numbers will be required to meet costs and maintain the relationship with China as well as other stakeholders.

The capacity of local infrastructure, such as public transport and parking facilities, to manage increased visitor numbers should be taken into account. Local government involvement in developing any proposal is strongly suggested.

Selection criteria

The selection criteria and engagement process are yet to be finalised. However, the Government will be looking to propose a host zoo that can demonstrate a high level of professionalism, commitment, and drive for the project. The zoo must be able to represent New Zealand appropriately and undertake negotiations successfully at a high-level. Proficiency in managing complex, high stakes and long-term projects is essential. In addition, the proposed host zoo will need to have the support and confidence of its major funders, local government and community.

The aim of Chinese engagement with foreign zoos over pandas is to boost the panda population in China and ultimately facilitate the release of captive born pandas into the wild. The emphasis of relationships with host zoos is the mutual exchange of scientific knowledge and conservation expertise. The zoo will need to demonstrate it has the professional capability as well as capacity to host giant pandas and run a successful breeding programme.

The pandas, and any cubs born to a breeding pair, remain the property of the People's Republic of China. Repatriation of the pandas at the conclusion of the agreement is the norm, although extensions are not unheard of.

s9(2)(j)

The zoo will be expected to act as host to not only the pandas but also to Chinese panda officials in the negotiation phase and Chinese keepers for up to several months once the pandas arrive.

s9(2)(j)

Next steps

Indication of interest to take part in the RFP process should be received by 14 January 2011.

Please note, any future engagement will only be with those who have advised of their intention to participate.

Depending on the level of interest, a Request for Proposal process may be initiated. Once this decision is made, zoos that have indicated interest in participating further will be contacted and informed of the timing and requirements.

Contacts

To indicate further interest, or if you wish to discuss the information and process as set out above, please contact:

Department of Internal Affairs

59(2)(a) 920

For further information about Adelaide Zoo's experience of the process to become a panda host zoo please contact:

CEO Adelaide Zoo

59(2)(a) 920

Also see Adelaide Zoo's giant panda webpage.

<http://www.giantpanda.org.au/>

IM. JRTING CHINESE GIANT PANDAS INTO NEW ZEALAND - FOR
MEETING 5 AUGUST 2010

Purpose

1. This brief provides you with information on the biosecurity implications of importing giant pandas to New Zealand from China.

Key Points

3. In order to import giant pandas from China, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) must do an import risk analysis to determine if the pandas could carry unwanted diseases that could damage our economy, environment or human health. Then MAF must develop an import health standard to specify the biosecurity requirements that must be met to in order to bring pandas into the country.
4. MAF has a prioritised programme of risk and import health standard work. As yet, MAF has not received a formal request from Wellington Zoo for 'pandas' to be added to the MAF work programme.
6. Pandas eat large quantities of bamboo. The Zoo and Aquarium Association has confirmed that an existing New Zealand bamboo grower can provide this bamboo.
7. MAF is also investigating options for importing fresh cut bamboo as panda food. A current import health standard covers the importation of bamboo for nursery stock. This import health standard could be used to manage the risks of importing large quantities of bamboo for panda consumption. Alternatively, MAF could undertake a rapid risk assessment for fresh cut bamboo and develop an import health standard accordingly.

s 6(a)

s 6(b)

s 6(a)

s 6(b)

Background

1. MAF receives many requests for import health standard development. These requests are prioritised, and an effort is made to balance zoo, production animal and commercial needs on the work programme.
2. The zoo risk analysis and import health standard work programme is prioritised in consultation with the Zoo Association. MAF is currently committed to developing import health standards for Asian elephants, Tasmanian devils, and white rhinoceroses.
3. MAF completed a rapid risk assessment for elephants, and Auckland Zoo did much of the work in developing a risk management proposal. This risk management proposal will form the basis for writing an import health standard for elephants.
4. The future model for these "one-off" import health standard requests is that the party requesting the importation carries out the rapid risk assessment, which MAF then signs off. MAF will use this model with Wellington Zoo and the panda risk assessment.
5. Adelaide Zoo recently acquired two giant pandas. Biosecurity Australia assessed the risk associated with the import and concluded it should apply the risk measures used for zoo carnivores. This means that the pandas must be from premises that are free from a list of specified diseases.
6. MAF can access Biosecurity Australia's risk assessment for the importation of giant pandas. This information could form a starting point in the risk assessment for the importation of pandas to New Zealand.
7. Two existing New Zealand import health standards, for red pandas and sun bears, give an indication of the sort of biosecurity requirements likely to apply to giant pandas.
8. Post-arrival quarantine would be required for giant pandas, to detect, contain, manage, or exclude any pests and diseases affecting the pandas. This is standard practice for all imported zoo animals. Wellington Zoo has facilities to provide this quarantine.
9. Containment facility requirements for giant pandas must also meet the Environmental Risk Management Authority's approved Zoo Animal Containment Facility Standard.

Vicki Melville

From: Matthew Stone
Sent: Friday, 30 July 2010 3:44 p.m.
To: Vicki Melville
Subject: RE: Pandas

Thanks Vicki - next week is fine

Matthew Stone BVSc (MVB) PhD
Group Manager Animal Imports and Exports
Border Standards Directorate - MAF Biosecurity New Zealand

Web: www.biosecurity.govt.nz
Animal Exports: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/exports/animals>
Animal Imports: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/imports/animals>

From: Vicki Melville
Sent: Friday, 30 July 2010 3:32 p.m.
To: Matthew Stone
Subject: RE: Pandas

Hi Mat

I have a draft ready for you/Rachelle to check before sending it to Susie - I was waiting for Rachelle on Monday or can send through now if you prefer?
And yes - I discussed with Shiroma (who talked to the zoo re bamboo)

Vicki

From: Matthew Stone
Sent: Friday, 30 July 2010 3:27 p.m.
To: Vicki Melville
Cc: Rachelle Linwood
Subject: FW: Pandas

Vicki - fyi. Just catching up on emails at moment. Note Tim's deadline. Please keep Rachelle and I posted on the brief as it comes together. Shiroma tells me she's discussed the Plants issues with you.

Mat

From: Tim Knox
Sent: Friday, 30 July 2010 10:13 a.m.
To: Colin Holden; Matthew Stone; Stephen Butcher
Cc: Susie Pettigrew; Steve Stuart
Subject: RE: Pandas

Thanks Colin

As mentioned this morning, Barry has been contacted by Martin Weavers (DPM&C) wanting to understand how this can be progressed. Barry has recommended Martin arrange to meet with Libby Harrison (ERMA) and me.

59(2)(g)(i)

Mat - can you please take the lead on pulling together the brief in conjunction with Susie. Barry mentioned that Adelaide zoo imported a couple of pandas a while back, so might be a good idea to see how BA approached it and whether there is a risk assessment we could borrow/adapt.

Steve - can you please provide input into the brief in relation to the bamboo question. Not sure how it would be done, so suggest we provide advice on the option of importing as nursery stock for growing here, or importing as fresh cut feed. Might also be useful to find out how Australia dealt with this.

Can we please work to having this done and the brief out the door by CoB next Friday. Thanks

Cheers,  Tim

From: Colin Holden
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2010 11:31 a.m.
To: Matthew Stone; Tim Knox
Cc: Susie Pettigrew
Subject: Pandas

Hi Tim and Mat

At ELT Tactics last evening Steve mentioned some Cable traffic on the PM's proposal to import a couple of Chinese pandas in exchange for some kiwis. I haven't seen the cables, but apparently there would also be a need to import a special type of bamboo for feed. Not clear whether this would be for growing in NZ, or imported as a fresh product.

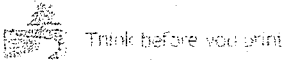
s9(2)(g)(i)

Can you guys take the lead on this? Will probably need something next week. Mat's email to Natalie and Thomas below will be a good starting point, and Susie is available to assist with tidying up a draft.

Tx
Colin

Colin Holden | **Director Policy & Risk (Acting)**
Policy & Risk Directorate | MAF Biosecurity New Zealand
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry | Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace
PO Box 2526 | Wellington 6011 | New Zealand

s9(2)(a)



From: Matthew Stone
Sent: Monday, 28 June 2010 11:09 a.m.
To: Natalie Nesbitt; Thomas Pryor (MIN)
Cc: Tim Knox; Colin Holden; Howard Pharo; Rachelle Linwood
Subject: RE: Pre-Cab notes 28 June 2010

Thomas, Natalie

Following up the Panda issue from this morning's meeting:

- Importation of Pandas from China into containment within a zoo in New Zealand would need to follow the normal process of import risk analysis and import health standard development. That process will serve to identify biosecurity risks and the appropriate risk management.
- MAFBNZ was broadly aware of the discussions occurring via recent MFAT cables. However, we have not received a formal request for this importation proposal to be placed on our work programme. The zoo animals risk analysis/standard development work programme is over-subscribed, and prioritisation occurs in accordance with MAFBNZ available resourcing and in consultation with ARAZPA, the zoo industry association.
- Other "queue jumping" has occurred recently, notably the Auckland zoo request to import an elephant. In that instance, under a degree of political pressure to not be seen to be the impediment in the process, MAFBNZ completed a rapid risk assessment and then the proponent (Auckland Zoo) has undertaken to do all the leg work to develop a detailed risk management proposal that will allow an import health standard to be developed. This may become a model for such one-off proposals, with political dimensions, in the future.
- Wellington Zoo did touch base with us after the DomPost article, and noted that "discussions are in the very early

Vicki Melville

From: Jo Gascoigne [Jo.Gascoigne@dia.govt.nz]
 Sent: Tuesday, 16 November 2010 1:04 p.m.
 To: Maarten Wevers
 Cc: Craig Doherty; Rebecca (ASIA) 'NEEDHAM'; Vicki Melville; Tony Lynch; Antony Moss; Raj Krishnan
 Subject: Information for zoos
 Attachments: 05-11 11-07-16 2396341DA - Timeline 16 Nov.doc; Zoo contacts.doc

Hi Maarten

Thanks for your phone message

Attached is a timetable for the RFP process prepared by Craig. As you will see, we get a bit snarled up by the Christmas break, but I think this is acceptable on two fronts. First, staff here, and at the zoos, will be on leave at varying times over the break so decisions wont be able to be made. Second, allowing the zoos additional time at this end may make future steps more smooth. s 9 (2)(j)(i)

Also attached is a list of the zoos that have asked to receive the information document, and the CEOs contact details: s 9 (2)(b)(i)

But as I mentioned before, I'm happy to do the actual send out, if you can provide a cover letter.

The timeline has this going out on 22 November (next Monday). I'd like to let the zoos know that it will be coming sometime next week, but we don't have to get too hung up on actually getting it out on Monday if that timeframe doesn't work for you.

Cheers
Jo

Jo Gascoigne
 Policy Analyst
 Local Government and Community Branch
 The Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua

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Action	Timeframe	Date
Release of Briefing Document	4 weeks (with additional time to accommodate Christmas and anticipate staff leave)	22/11/10 – 14/01/11
Response from Zoos		14/01/11
Review Letters of Intent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Includes discussion around risks to occur during the second week of January 2011 	5 day	17/01/11 – 21/01/11
Workshop of Requirements (optional) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finalisation of RFP Document ▪ Decide evaluation team 		Intention is to have draft requirements ready for first review end of November 2010
Release RFP Document to Zoos	4 weeks	24/01/11
Close Date for RFP		18/02/11
Evaluation Period including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of Proposals ▪ Moderation Meetings ▪ Meetings with Zoos (optional) ▪ Due Diligence, including financial stability ▪ Recommendation 	2 -3 weeks	21/02/11 – 11/03/11
Host Zoo nominated		after 11/03/11

Things to note:

- Availability of other Evaluation Team members
- Detail required in due diligence process especially around financial stability

Vicki Melville

From: Jo Gascoigne [Jo.Gascoigne@dia.govt.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 November 2010 12:55 p.m.
To: Craig Doherty
Cc: 'Maarten Wevers'; Rebecca (ASIA) 'NEEDHAM'; Vicki Melville
Subject: FW: Advice re pandas for NZ zoos

Hi Craig

Here is some fresh data from Adelaide - I think it lines up pretty closely with what I have drafted in the info doc for zoos, but will double check my maths

s9(2)(j)

From: Chris West [mailto:cwest@zoossa.com.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 November 2010 12:42 p.m.
To: Jo Gascoigne
Subject: RE: Advice re pandas for NZ zoos

Hi Jo,

I do remember meeting and talking and the exercise at Wellington was a pleasure.

s9(2)(j)

With regard to more detailed costings I can provide something of a report via our project manager if people ask. We would want to 'anonymize' it and re-work existing documents somewhat so it is a piece

s9(2)(j)

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6. Other costs could include the recruitment and training of a couple of extra keepers (but we restructured and redeployed so avoided this) and also the establishment of a bamboo plantation. The costs of the latter were higher here because of land and irrigation issues and again we benefited from major sponsorship and public support so that our eventual costs were little more than an extra horticulturalist.

I hope this helps.

Best, Chris

From: Jo Gascoigne [mailto:Jo.Gascoigne@dia.govt.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 November 2010 2:38 PM
To: Chris West
Subject: Advice re pandas for NZ zoos

Hi Chris

You may remember that we met recently at Wellington zoo - I am responsible for coordinating the support from central government for a New Zealand zoo to follow in Adelaide Zoo's footsteps to acquire a pair of giant pandas. Thank you again for being so generous with your learnings, I know the meeting was extremely useful for everyone who attended.

political s 9(2)(g)(i)

We have had serious interest from a couple of New Zealand zoos in hosting giant pandas. [redacted] s 9(2)(b)(ii) essary steps, it has been decided that other zoos should be given the opportunity to look at what's involved, and decide whether to put in a formal proposal.

92)

Shortly, we will be issuing an information document to prospective host zoos out-lining what we know of the process [redacted] s 9(2)(g) and the level of investment required. Most of our information is based on Adelaide Zoo's experience - including the general costs involved. I am hoping to call on your generosity again to share your knowledge and experience of becoming a panda zoo. The costing information we have is extremely rough. I was wondering if you could give me an indication of the costs involved - e.g. capital investment, project management, outlay for the negotiations, travel to and from China, transporting the pandas etc, and any other unexpected costs.

Also, if you agree, I would like to list you as one of the contact points for zoos seeking further information. [redacted] s 9(2)(b)(ii) we want to be able to make this process as transparent and fair as possible, therefore accurate and insightful information about what's involved would be invaluable.

s 9(2)(g)(i)

Jo Gascoigne
Policy Analyst
Local Government and Community Branch
The Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua

s 9(2)(a)

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Vicki Melville

From: Jo Gascoigne [Jo.Gascoigne@dia.govt.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 16 September 2010 4:18 p.m.
To: Vicki Melville; NEEDHAM, Rebecca (ASIA)
Subject: RE: elaide Zoo - DVD and some questions
Sure thing - will get it to MAF reception tomorrow


From: Vicki Melville [mailto:Vicki.Melville@maf.govt.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 16 September 2010 4:10 p.m.
To: Jo Gascoigne; NEEDHAM, Rebecca (ASIA)
Subject: elaide Zoo - DVD and some questions

Hi Jo

Thanks for the information that you have forwarded. And yes, I would be very interested in seeing the panda video if possible in preparation for the meeting next week.

Kind regards Vicki

Vicki Melville | Senior Adviser, Animal Imports and Exports Group |
MAF Biosecurity New Zealand | Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace | PO Box 2526 | Wellington | New Zealand

 Think before you print

From: Jo Gascoigne [mailto:Jo.Gascoigne@dia.govt.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 16 September 2010 3:11 p.m.
To: NEEDHAM, Rebecca (ASIA); Vicki Melville
Cc: Tim Knox; Geoff Ridley; 'Maarten Wevers'; Tony Lynch; 'Donna Campbell'; Antony Moss
Subject: [Requires Classification] Adelaide Zoo - DVD and some questions

Hi there

Wellington Zoo has provided me a DVD documenting the closing stages of Adelaide Zoo's acquisition of two giant pandas ('Delivering the pandas' produced by the Ten network). I have viewed the DVD and written up some notes which are attached FYI. If you would also like to have a look at the DVD let me know - its about 45 mins long.

Also attached are some high-level questions for our meeting with Dr Chris West and the WGTN Zoo Board next week.

The questions focus on the process, negotiations and financial side of things and are just a prompt for discussion rather than anything formal.

Cheers
Jo

Jo Gascoigne
Policy Analyst
Local Government and Community Branch
The Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua

59(2)(a)

7/06/2011

Vicki Melville

From: Matthew Stone
Sent: Tuesday, 14 September 2010 4:00 p.m.
To: Rachelle Linwood; Vicki Melville
Subject: FW: Panda zoo selection
Attachments: what the process for selecting the host zoo should be.doc

Vicki

You already have this from DIA,
ERMA, with responsibilities for rearing imports and containment in this industry.

the enforcement agency for
Please go ahead and make any

comments about the process, principles and criteria

s 9(2)(g)(i)

s 9(2)(g)(i)

ta

Mat

From: Tim Knox
Sent: Tuesday, 14 September 2010 2:55 p.m.
To: Matthew Stone
Subject: FW: Panda zoo selection

Hi Mat

Without getting too drawn into this (maintaining our 'arms length' regulator perspective) can you please ask Vicki to make any comments that seem useful in the context of our technical expertise and expectations. Thanks

Cheers, Tim

From: Jo Gascoigne [mailto:Jo.Gascoigne@dia.govt.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 14 September 2010 2:46 p.m.
To: NEEDHAM, Rebecca (ASIA); Geoff Ridley; Tim Knox; Tony Lynch; Vicki Melville; 'Donna Campbell'
Cc: 'Maarten Wevers'; Antony Moss
Subject: [Requires Classification] Panda zoo selection

Hi there

Maarten has asked us to have a think about what the process for selecting the host zoo should be.

He has suggested we identify some key requirements, and associated principles for assessment, then we could go out and seek expressions of interest.

I tend to think in lists and tables so that's how I have approached this - my thinking is attached.

I have started to fill out the table with info we have about WGTN Zoo as an example how such a table could work. However, I'm not wedded to this format and there may be a better way to assess the zoos' various merits.

7/06/2011

Could you have a look at what I've come up with and think about:

- whether you agree with the proposed process
- is this the best way to assess the zoos' suitability
- are the assessment criteria correctly focussed and complete

Your thoughts by the end of the week would be appreciated.

On another matter, Rebecca, Vicki and I will be attending the meeting at Wellington Zoo next Tuesday. At the meeting Dr Chris West, CEO of Adelaide Zoo and the Wellington Zoo Board will discuss how Adelaide managed the business of getting pandas, the negotiation, and details such as costs.

I will prepare (and circulate for comment) some questions as well, but if anyone who isn't attending has anything they would like us to ask/cover please let me know.

Cheers
Jo

Jo Gascoigne
Policy Analyst
Local Government and Community Branch
The Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua

59(2)(c)

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Vicki Melville

From: Jo Gascoigne [Jo.Gascoigne@dia.govt.nz]
Sent: Monday, 13 September 2010 11:50 a.m.
To: 'NEEDHAM, Rebecca (ASIA)'; Tim Knox; Geoff Ridley; Vicki Melville; 'Donna Campbell'
Cc: 'Maarten Wevers'; Antony Moss; Tony Lynch
Subject: Meeting with Adelaide Zoo CEO

Kia ora all

We have been invited to meet with Adelaide Zoo CEO, Dr Chris West, and the Wellington Zoo staff on Tuesday 21st. Its not necessary for all of us to go, but this is a good opportunity to meet with the Adelaide folks who have had experience of the panda acquisition process.

The meeting time can be arranged when we have an idea of who from the panda team would like to/should attend.

I will work up some general process/project questions and can include questions you may have regarding any specific areas if you are unable to attend the meeting yourself.

We are still waiting to hear final word from the PM re the report and next steps.

s9(2)(j)

If you are interested and available please let me know (and when it suits you) in the next day or so, and I will confirm numbers and timing with the Zoo.

Cheers
Jo

Jo Gascoigne
Policy Analyst
Local Government and Community Branch
The Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua

s9(2)(a)

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Vicki Melville

From: Donna Campbell [Donna.Campbell@ermanız.govt.nz]
Sent: Friday, 3 September 2010 9:45 a.m.
To: Jo Gascoigne; Maarten Wevers
Cc: Rebecca (ASIA) NEEDHAM; Tim Knox; Tony Lynch; Geoff Ridley; Antony Moss; Marilyn Little; Vicki Melville
Subject: Decision on Giant Panda (ERMA200520) ERMA_REF:0022121
Attachments: ERMA200520 decision.pdf

Decision on HSNO Act application for giant panda

ERMA has made a decision on application ERMA200520 - giant panda from Wellington Zoo Trust on behalf of New Zealand zoos.

Relevant documents as well as the decision with controls that apply to the approval can be found on our website <http://www.ermanız.govt.nz/search/register.html>.

I have also attached a copy of the decision for your information.

If you have any questions please let me know.

Donna Campbell
Environmental Risk Advisor, New Organisms

ERMA New Zealand • BP House • 20 Customhouse Quay
PO Box 131 • Wellington 6140 • New Zealand • www.ermanız.govt.nz

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Vicki Melville

From: Geoff Ridley [Geoff.Ridley@erманz.govt.nz]

Sent: Tuesday, 31 August 2010 1:56 p.m.

To: Jo Gascoigne; Maarten Wevers; Rebecca (ASIA) NEEDHAM; Tim Knox; Vicki Melville; Donna Campbell; Tony Lynch

Subject: HSNO application for panda

Hi all

The panda application has been considered by the Authority and they have agreed to approve it. The Decision document will be signed on Thursday, at which point it will be legally approved, and will go up on the ERMA website on Friday. I will send you a link to the Decision on Friday. We will be telling Simon Eyre today.

Regards
Geoff

Dr Geoff Ridley
Science Manager (New Organisms)
ERMA New Zealand
PO Box 131
Wellington

s9(2)(a)

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NEEDHAM, Rebecca (ASIA)

From: Maarten Wevers [Maarten.Wevers@dpmc.govt.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 26 August 2010 4:19 p.m.
To: Jo Gascoigne; NEEDHAM, Rebecca (ASIA)
Subject: Fwd: Panda

To see
Maarten

>>> "Alastair Morrison" <amorrison@doc.govt.nz> 26/08/2010 3:58 p.m. >>>
Maarten:

If captive bred panda were to be brought into NZ, under CITES all that is required is an export permit from China. There would be no DOC involvement in this.

If the panda were not captive bred, then under CITES DOC would need to issue an import permit. The grounds for issuing would be on the basis that the panda were imported as part of a captive breeding programme that supports the conservation of panda. It is unlikely there would be any issues regarding this.

Regardless of captive bred or not, my understanding is that the import will be subject to MAF Biosecurity NZ's biosecurity requirements (Import Health Standards), as well as ERMA approval under the HSNO Act.

s9(2)(g)(i)

Irrelevant

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Extract from PM Media conference

Following my return from China recently, officials met to talk about what the requirements would be for importation of a pair of giant pandas to a suitable New Zealand zoo. There are complex requirements to be met under the HASNO Act and the Biosecurity Act. Issues such as funding and possible locations will need to be addressed. We shall also need to meet any particular requirements from the Chinese authorities. Officials from ERMA, MAF Biosecurity, MFAT and Internal Affairs, as well as DPMC, are contributing to the advice and are in contact with Wellington Zoo on behalf of New Zealand zoos. It is unlikely that there will be early results, as the process has taken several years in other places—and, I might add, 7 years in Australia—but we are keen to understand exactly what is involved so that we are ready to proceed if our informal request to the Chinese materialises into an offer to host two pandas. MFAT, through the embassy in Beijing, is following up my discussions with Vice-President Xi and Premier Wen with the appropriate agencies. At this stage, focus is primarily on the acquisition of the pandas. Feasibility of offering some kiwis in return will also be looked at in due course.

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Vicki Melville

From: Vicki Melville
Sent: Wednesday, 11 August 2010 8:52 a.m.
To: Craig Pritchard; Howard Pharo; jonathon.wilcken@aucklandcity.govt.nz; Matthew Stone
Cc: Stuart MacDiarmid; John Potter
Subject: RE: Pandas at Auckland in the past?

Hi all

I can do any other work that is needed here.

Mat/Howard - I will wait to hear back from Craig and John. Craig - thank you for your suggestion, and we have been in contact with Biosecurity Australia about the work done for Adelaide.

Kind regards Vicki

Vicki Melville | Senior Adviser Animal Imports and Exports Group |
MAF Biosecurity New Zealand | Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace | PO Box 2526 | Wellington | New Zealand



Think before you print

From: Craig Pritchard [mailto:Craig.Pritchard@aucklandcity.govt.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 11 August 2010 8:46 a.m.
To: Howard Pharo; jonathon.wilcken@aucklandcity.govt.nz
Cc: Vicki Melville; Stuart MacDiarmid; John Potter
Subject: RE: Pandas at Auckland in the past?

Good morning Howard,

John Potter and I can have a look at what historical information we have on Xiao Xiao & Fei Fei here at the NZCCM.

As you will know Adelaide Zoo recently imported Pandas from China and they would be a good information source with regards to recent AQUIS requirements and so forth.

We will be in touch.

Cheers,

Craig

From: Howard Pharo [mailto:Howard.Pharo@maf.govt.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 11 August 2010 8:14
To: Craig Pritchard; jonathon.wilcken@aucklandcity.govt.nz
Cc: Vicki Melville; Stuart MacDiarmid
Subject: Pandas at Auckland in the past?

Hi Craig, Jonathon,

Someone just pointed us to a website that says Auckland zoo hosted a pair of

pandas (Xiao Xiao and Fei Fei) in 1988-89.

Here is the link: <http://www.giantpandazoo.com/History.html>

Auckland zoo's website confirms this

"1988 The Zoo plays host to two giant panda bears. Xiao Xiao and Fei Fei. More than 300,000 visitors see the pandas in three months."

Do you know anything of the history behind this?

Of course this was pre-Biosecurity Act, so the processes were different

Cheers, Howard

Howard PHARO | Team Manager Animals, Risk Analysis Group
MAF Biosecurity New Zealand | Policy & Risk Directorate
Level 12 | Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace | Wellington 6011



59(2)(a)

16140

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NEEDHAM, Rebecca (ASIA)

From: Tim Knox [Tim.Knox@maf.govt.nz]
Sent: Friday, 6 August 2010 1:54 p.m.
To: NEEDHAM, Rebecca (ASIA)
Subject: RE: RE: Panda -

s9(2)(g)(i)

Irrelevant

From: NEEDHAM, Rebecca (ASIA)
Sent: Friday, 6 August 2010 10:55 a.m.
To: 'Jo Gascoigne'; 'Tim Knox'; maarten.wevers@domc.govt.nz; geoff.ridley@ermanz.govt.nz; PIERARD, Alexandra (BEI)
Cc: Marilyn Little; Antony Moss
Subject: RE: Panda

Hi Jo

Irrelevant

Beijing Embassy Action (refer attached action plan)
You will see that we already have a fair amount of higher level information, including on overall costs and on the Australian experience.

In addition I've asked the Embassy in Beijing for:
- Details of Process in China - to be provided by State Forestry Administration (SFA)

21/10/2010

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

- Details of China terms and conditions of lease, inc costs of leasing, capital costs of enclosure construction, feedstock etc

In return the Embassy has the following information from us, if possible within the next couple of weeks, in advance of their proposed meeting with the State Forestry Administration:

Zoo
- An indication as to whether the recipient of the pandas (the zoo) is confirmed or whether this is going to be a contestable process. Embassy notes that confirming the zoo is an essential first step as much of the action after the Embassy's initial meeting with SFA will need to be undertaken between the zoo directly with China Wildlife Conservation Association (with support).

Funding
- Confirmation that funds are available to pursue the request - in addition to the direct costs associated with leasing etc, this also includes Embassy visits to Chengdu etc (refer Beijing action plan).

Regards

Rebecca

From: Jo Gascoigne [mailto:Jo.Gascoigne@dia.govt.nz]
Sent: Friday, 6 August 2010 9:22 a.m.
To: 'Tim Knox'; maarten.wevers@dpmc.govt.nz; geoff.ridley@ermanz.govt.nz; NEEDHAM, Rebecca (ASIA)

From: Tim Knox [mailto:Tim.Knox@maf.govt.nz]
Sent: Friday, 6 August 2010 9:17 a.m.
To: Jo Gascoigne; maarten.wevers@dpmc.govt.nz; geoff.ridley@ermanz.govt.nz; rebecca.needham@maf.govt.nz
Cc: Marilyn Little; Antony Moss; Moira Jones
Subject: RE: Panda

Hi Jo

Your list of actions looks good to me. Please find attached the note we have prepared on the biosecurity related issues. Happy to meet again in a couple of weeks. I am out of the office on 19 & 20 August, but have some time on the 18th if that suits.

Regards, Tim

Irrelevant

Tim Knox
Director Border Standards
MAF Biosecurity New Zealand
25 The Terrace Wellington

E-mail: tim.knox@maf.govt.nz

From: Jo Gascoigne [mailto:Jo.Gascoigne@dia.govt.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 5 August 2010 4:18 p.m.
To: 'maarten.wevers@dpmc.govt.nz'; Tim Knox; 'geoff.ridley@ermanz.govt.nz';
'rebecca.needham@mfat.govt.nz'
Cc: Marilyn Little; Antony Moss
Subject: Panda

Kia ora koutou

Very nice to meet you all today.

Here is a run down of what we decided would be our initial plan of action - please let me know if I have missed/misrepresented anything.

We are aiming to provide a proposal and process map to the PM by the end of the month.

- Tim will distribute to all the electronic version of MAF's initial briefing re biosecurity implications of importing giant pandas

- Rebecca will confirm the Chinese terms and conditions for supply (would be good to have this for the meeting with the zoo)

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

- Geoff or Rebecca (could you guys coordinate who is best placed to do this?) will contact DOC about potential CITES implications

s 6(a)
s 6(b)

- Rebecca, Tim and Geoff will feed information to Jo.
- Jo will coordinate activity between agencies, collate the information and consider where the gaps are.
- Jo will put together the project plan/process map and draft the proposal for the PM.

We will all meet in a couple of weeks (around the 20th?) to assess where we are up to and look over the draft proposal and process map.

Cheers
Jo

Jo Gascoigne
Policy Analyst
Local Government and Community Branch
The Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua
Direct Dial: +64 4 494 0526
www.dia.govt.nz

21/10/2010

There is no page 4.

Vicki Melville

From: Matthew Stone
Sent: Wednesday, 4 August 2010 4:04 p.m.
To: Vicki Melville
Cc: Rachelle Linwood
Subject: RE: Updated Panda info

Thanks Vicki - the main section looks good. Could be a bit more info in the background - perhaps a sentence/paragraph on each of the following

- The means by which we prioritise the zoo RAIHS work programme, in consultation with the Zoo Association
- The zoo animal work we are already committed to on our current work programme
- The fact IHS dev requests and the prioritisation programme is heavily over-subscribed, and we strive to balance zoo, production animal and commercial needs in the work programme
- That we have two similar looking IHSs (red pandas and sun bears) already, developed sometime ago, that could provide an indication of the sort of requirements likely to apply following the RA process
- That Post-Arrival Quarantine would be required, as is standard for zoo animals, and Wellington Zoo have facilities to provide this.
- That consideration would need to be given to the facility requirements to contain Giant Pandas within the ERMA approved Zoo Animal Containment Facility Standard

Once you've had a crack at that, could you find somewhere to load it into ECMS then we will engage with Policy, and get their views on it.

Thanks

Mat

From: Vicki Melville
Sent: Wednesday, 4 August 2010 3:29 p.m.
To: Matthew Stone
Subject: Updated Panda info


Hi Mat

I have been in contact with Peter Hewitt from Biosecurity Australia. The person responsible for the panda RA has retired and the work is archived, but he has forwarded the outcome: that they used the carnivore measures (stating the animals come from premises free of rabies, babesiosis, brucellosis, pseudotuberculosis etc..) and added that they were treated for internal parasites (this was not a biosecurity measure, but a panda health issue).

I have added this on to the background on the brief. Please let me know if you need to discuss further/need me to do anything else

<< File: Panda briefing.doc >>
Kind regards Vicki

2010 Service Centre - Game Imports and Exports Unit

 Think before you print

Vicki Melville

From: Rachelle Linwood
Sent: Monday, 2 August 2010 5:19 p.m.
To: Vicki Melville
Subject: Panda brief

Hi Vicki

Can you please look up on Aus web site and see if they have any import conditions for Pandas

Apparently Adelaide Zoo have some one and it has been asked by one of the many interested in this how they got into Aus, i.e. if Aus has conditions and have a risk assessment we might be able to use it to assist ours.

If no luck on web page feel free to ask say Peter Hewitt, he is in the contact list for AI in FCS

Cheers
Rachelle

Rachelle Linwood | Team Manager, Animal Imports and Exports Group | rlinwood@mpi.govt.nz | 2-400
Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace | PO Box 2526 | Wellington | New Zealand

29(2)(c)

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Vicki Melville

From: Rachelle Linwood
Sent: Monday, 2 August 2010 1:23 p.m.
To: Vicki Melville
Subject: FW: Receipt of application (ERMA200520 - giant panda) - comments required by 13 August
ERMA_REF:0006202

Attachments: ERMA200520 Application FINAL.pdf; ERMA200520 Application summary.pdf

It's a bit hard without a RA and knowing what diseases/ticks etc there are of concern, but can you please just ensure that it is clear in the ERMA summary that a IHS is required.

Cheers
Ra

From: Barry Wards
Sent: Monday, 2 August 2010 1:13 p.m.
To: Rachelle Linwood; Howard Pharo
Subject: FW: Receipt of application (ERMA200520 - giant panda) - comments required by 13 August
ERMA_REF:0006202

Hi Rachelle/Howard

This came through on Friday. Can you please ask your people to provide any comments around risk and containment that would be pertinent to this application?

Would appreciate receiving anything by COB Tuesday 10 Aug.

Thanks

Barry

Barry Wards PhD | Senior Adviser
Import Standards Group | Border Standards Directorate
MAF Biosecurity New Zealand | Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry
Pastoral House | 25 The Terrace | PO Box 2526 | Wellington

75

"Be the change you want to see in the world"
Mahatma Gandhi

From: Tereska Kozera [mailto:Tereska.Kozera@ermanz.govt.nz]
Sent: Friday, 30 July 2010 4:04 p.m.
To: Barbara Wickenden; Barry Wards; Philip Bell
Subject: Receipt of application (ERMA200520 - giant panda) - comments required by 13 August
ERMA_REF:0006202

Receipt of application (ERMA200520 - giant panda)

We have received an application from Simon Eyre, Wellington Zoo Trust for the importation of *Ailuropoda melanoleuca* (Giant Panda) into containment for the purposes of public display, conservation and research. We consider that you may be interested in this application. Relevant application documents are attached.

If you wish to make written comments on the application please forward them by 13 August 2010.

Please contact Donna Campbell on 04 918 4865 or Donna.Campbell@erманz.govt.nz if you wish to discuss the decision-making process. Further information is also available on our website www.erманz.govt.nz.

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NEEDHAM, Rebecca (ASIA)

From: MORTON, Grahame (ASIA)
Sent: Thursday, 29 July 2010 9:09 a.m.
To: NEEDHAM, Rebecca (ASIA)
Subject: FW: Pendas: NZ Coordination

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

[SENSITIVE]

As discussed

-----Original Message-----

From: WORKER, Carl (BEI)
Sent: Wednesday, 28 July 2010 10:12 p.m.
To: PIERARD, Alexandra (BEI); WORKER, Carl (BEI)

s 9(2)(g)(i)

-----Original Message-----

From: PIERARD, Alexandra (BEI) [mailto:Alexandra.Pierard@fat.govt.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 July 2010 9:59 p.m.
To: WORKER, Carl (BEI)
Cc: DUNN, Pam (BEI); KENNINGTON, Neil (BEI)
Subject: RE: Pendas: NZ Coordination

[SENSITIVE]

Hi Carl

s6(b)

--
We are hoping to obtain some written background material/advice from the State Forestry Administration before the end of the week to consider in advance of any meeting. Once we receive this I'll start working on a draft action plan for the post.

s 9(2)(g)(i)

Alex

-----Original Message-----

From: WORKER, Carl (BEI)
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2010 3:43 p.m.
To: PIERARD, Alexandra (BEI)
Subject: FW: Pendas: NZ Coordination

[UNCLASSIFIED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Tony Lynch (mailto:Tony.Lynch@dpmc.govt.nz)

Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2010 2:38 p.m.

To: WARD, Geoff (ASIA); MORTON, Grahame (ASIA); NEEDHAM, Rebecca (ASIA);
Cc: WORKER, Carl (BEI); DUNN, Pam (BEI); GRIFFITHS, Philip (CEO Office); Billie Moore;

Daniel Mellso

Subject: Pandas: NZ Coordination

[Seemail]

a project team - it would involve someone from ERMA,

Internal Affairs
MAF Biosecurity - and will also be looking for an MFAT official to participate as well
(including to bring the external dimension ie links through the Embassy etc with the
Chinese authorities).

s 9(2)(g)(i)

As such grateful if you could identify who would be most appropriate to provide this support

s 9(2)(g)(i)

Thanks, Tony

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(DPMC Secured)

59(2)(g)(i)

Irrelevant

Thanks
Rebecca

From: PIERARD, Alexandra (BEI)
Sent: Friday, 26 March 2010 8:44 p.m.
To: MORTON, Grahame (ASIA)
Cc: NEEDHAM, Rebecca (ASIA); WARD, Geoff (ASIA); Tony Lynch; DUNN, Pam (BEI); AINSWORTH, Steve (BEI); WORKER, Carl (BEI); REID, Nicola (BEI)
Subject: China: Pandas

[SEEMAIL] [RESTRICTED]

Hi Grahame

Some thoughts on the panda proposition below.

Cheers

Alex

Panda Diplomacy
Approximately 1,600 pandas live in the wild while 120 are in Chinese breeding facilities and zoos. Pandas are China's unofficial national mascot and are imbued with great symbolism. China gifted several pairs of pandas in the late 1900s, but since the '80s China has been loaning panda pairs at a cost of approximately USD1 million per year for 10 years with the ostensible aim of promoting and aiding its panda breeding programmes. Agreements are signed to this effect, which also ensure any cubs are the property of the PRC. Panda diplomacy has recently gained a more pragmatic side, but China's "gifting" of pandas is still widely viewed as a goodwill gesture and pandas are highly sought after. Other examples of rare animal diplomacy are few. Reportedly the government of the Seychelles Islands last year gifted two Aldabra giant tortoises to Shanghai Expo (now resident in Shanghai zoo) in appreciation for China's assistance with the country's Expo-related costs.

56(b)(i)

The pandas were quarantined in China and Australia|

and vaccinated for rabies. Australian keepers visited China to learn from the Chinese keepers and then Chinese handlers/keepers travelled with the pandas and stayed on to facilitate their "settling in". The Chinese stipulated that the timing of the arrival coincide with the Adelaide climate being closest to their natural habitat. Adelaide zoo also built an AU\$8 million enclosure including bamboo plants and refrigerated rocks to simulate their habitat in China.

Australia maintain a sufficiently large renewable supply of bamboo food supply.

Pandas apparently do not suffer from many exotic diseases and there are established procedures for importing zoo animals, which have lived in controlled environments.

s (b)(6)

s (b)(6)(i)

Irrelevant

Importing Giant Pandas into New Zealand
Requirements for importing animals into NZ depend on the type of animal, where it's from and if there is an existing import health standard (required under the Biosecurity Act). The risks of importing any new animal would need to be identified and managed.

Until some initial research is undertaken it will be difficult to determine what these risks are and how they can be overcome.

s9(2)(g)(i)

(NB: Under New Zealand biosecurity legislation, Parliament took the deliberate step of giving the Director General rather than the Minister the authority to issue import health standards to ensure that New Zealand SPS measures in the words of the SPS Agreement truly are "only applied to the extent necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health based on scientific principles." This legislation is deliberately designed to remove any opportunity for incorporation of political interpretation of science in our SPS measures).

MAFBNZ will be able to advise, but our searches suggest there is currently no import health standard for importation of giant pandas from China. There is a MAF import health standard already in place for red pandas (a different species) from all countries as well as some other zoo animals like tarantulas, so under under certain circumstances this could well be possible.

There is an obligation under the HSNO Act to prevent the importation into New Zealand of any new organism that has not been approved by the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) so ERMA will also need to be consulted.

s9(2)(g)(i)

Irrelevant

Sent: Monday, 7 June 2010 10:24 p.m.

To: PIERARD, Alexandra (BEI); DUNN, Pam (BEI); WORKER, Carl (BEI); MORTON, Grahame (ASIA)

Subject: RE: Pandas: Wgtn Zoo

s 9(2)(a)

s9(2)(b)

s9(2)(b)(i)

For many decades the precise taxonomic classification of the Giant Panda was under debate because it shares characteristics of both bears and raccoons. However, molecular studies suggest that the Giant Panda is a true bear and part of the Ursidae family, ^{[25][26]} though it differentiated early in history from the main ursine stock. The Giant Panda's closest ursine relative is the Spectacled Bear of South America. The Giant Panda has been referred to as a living fossil. ^[27]

Despite the shared name, habitat type, and diet, as well as a unique enlarged bone called the *pseudo thumb* (which helps them grip the bamboo shoots they eat), the Giant Panda and Red Panda are only distantly related. Molecular studies have placed the Red Panda in its own family Ailuridae, and not under Ursidae.

Recently, NHNZ has featured pandas in two documentaries. *Panda Nursery* (2006) featured China's Wolong National Nature Reserve in the mountains in Sichuan Province; forty Giant Pandas and a dedicated team of staff play a crucial role in ensuring the survival of the species. As part of the Reserve's panda breeding program, a revolutionary new method of rearing twin cubs called 'swap-raising' has been developed. Each cub is raised by both its natural mother and one of the Reserve's veterinarians, Wei Rongping, to increase the chances of both cubs surviving. *Growing Up: Giant Panda* (2003) featured Chengdu Giant Panda Center in south-west China as one of the best in the world. Yet with female pandas' short fertility cycles and low birth rates, raising the captive panda population is an uphill battle.

From

To: alex.pierard@mfat.govt.nz; pam.dunn@mfat.govt.nz; carl.worker@mfat.govt.nz; graham.morton@mfat.govt.nz

Subject: Pandas: Wgtn Zoo

Date: Tue, 8 Jun 2010 02:06:19 +1200

s 9(2)(a)

Hi Alex

s9(2)(b)

s9(2)(b)(ii)

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s9(2)(b)

s9(2)(b)

Download the new Windows Live looking for a place to manage all your online stuff?

Check on MSN NZ Money for a hand Feeling the financial pinch?

MORTON, Grahame (ASIA)

From: DUNN, Pam (BEI) [Pam.Dunn@mfat.net.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 8 June 2010 7:31 p.m.
To: PIERARD, Alexandra (BEI); DUNN, Pam (BEI)
Cc: WORKER, Carl (BEI); AINSWORTH, Steve (BRU); MORTON, Grahame (ASIA)
Subject: RE: Pandas: Wgtn Zoo

[SENSITIVE]

s 9(2)(b)

From: PIERARD, Alexandra (BEI) [mailto:Alexandra.Pierard@mfat.govt.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 8 June 2010 11:40 a.m.
To: DUNN, Pam (BEI)
Cc: WORKER, Carl (BEI); AINSWORTH, Steve (BEI)
Subject: FW: Pandas: Wgtn Zoo

[SENSITIVE]
Hi Pam

Alex

28/10/2010

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Sent: Monday, 7 June 2010 10:24 p.m.

To: PIERARD, Alexandra (BEI); DUNN, Pam (BEI); WORKER, Carl (BEI); MORTON, Grahame (ASIA)

Subject: RE: Pandas: Wgtn Zoo

For many decades the precise taxonomic classification of the Giant Panda was under debate because it shares characteristics of both bears and raccoons. However, molecular studies suggest that the Giant Panda is a true bear and part of the Ursidae family,^{[25][26]} though it differentiated early in history from the main ursine stock. The Giant Panda's closest ursine relative is the Spectacled Bear of South America. The Giant Panda has been referred to as a living fossil.^[27]

Despite the shared name, habitat type, and diet, as well as a unique enlarged bone called the *pseudo thumb* (which helps them grip the bamboo shoots they eat), the Giant Panda and Red Panda are only distantly related. Molecular studies have placed the Red Panda in its own family Ailuridae, and not under Ursidae.

Recently, NHNZ has featured pandas in two documentaries. *Panda Nursery* (2006) featured China's Wolong National Nature Reserve in the mountains in Sichuan Province; forty Giant Pandas and a dedicated team of staff play a crucial role in ensuring the survival of the species. As part of the Reserve's panda breeding program, a revolutionary new method of rearing twin cubs called 'swap-raising' has been developed. Each cub is raised by both its natural mother and one of the Reserve's veterinarians, Wei Rongping, to increase the chances of both cubs surviving. *Growing Up: Giant Panda* (2003) featured Chengdu Giant Panda Center in south-west China as one of the best in the world. Yet with female pandas' short fertility cycles and low birth rates, raising the captive panda population is an uphill battle.

From:

To: alex.pierard@mfat.govt.nz; pam.dunn@mfat.govt.nz; carl.worker@mfat.govt.nz; grahame.morton@mfat.govt.nz

Subject: Pandas: Wgtn Zoo

Date: Tue, 8 Jun 2010 02:06:19 +1200

Hi Alex

28/10/2010

27/06/2010

MORTON, Grahame (ASIA)

From: MORTON, Grahame (ASIA)
Sent: Wednesday, 23 June 2010 11:22 a.m.
To: WARD, Geoff (ASIA)
Cc: NEEDHAM, Rebecca (ASIA)
Subject: RE: Request for comment on Panda's

Categories: [UNCLASSIFIED]

For info: the relevant para from the overview briefing

During a visit to Beijing this week, Wellington Mayor Prendergast enquired about the prospect of China loaning Wellington Zoo a pair of giant pandas. China maintains strict conditions around panda diplomacy.

Much of the preparatory work needs to be done between the Chengdu panda breeding centre and the proposed zoo home. This involves design and construction of new enclosures and development of sustainable fodder (special bamboo) arrangements. New biosecurity entry standards for pandas would also need to be developed.

S9(2)(g)(i)

S9(2)(f)(iv)

S6(a)

S6(b)

-----Original Message-----

From: Reuben Levermore (MIN) [mailto:Reuben.Levermore@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 23 June 2010 10:49 a.m.
To: Fleur Thompson (MIN)
Cc: MORTON, Grahame (ASIA); Tony.Lynch@pmc.govt.nz
Subject: Re: Request for comment on Panda's

----- Original Message -----

From: Reuben Levermore (MIN)
To: Fleur Thompson (MIN)
Cc: 'Grahame.Morton@mfat.govt.nz' <Grahame.Morton@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Wed Jun 23 10:48:58 2010
Subject: Re: Request for comment on Panda's

S9(2)(g)(i)

S9(2)(g)(i)

-----Original Message-----

From: Nick Butcher [mailto:Nick.Butcher@radionz.co.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 23 June 2010 9:48 am
To: Fleur Thompson (MIN)

Subject: Panda's

Fleur,

Speaking with the Wellington City Council, they have confirmed with me that there have been 'some' discussions about bring Pandas to NZ, which the Mayor talked about in China earlier this month.

The Mayors office informed me that, it was being talked about at a national level through foreign affairs.

Is this true and was the issue of Panda's in exchange for Kiwi's raised during China's vice president visit recently?

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Is Wellington Zoo being tipped/planned as the home for the Panda's or other zoos such as Auckland and Christchurch?

s9(2)(g)(i)

When would this project likely happen and what is the current status of it?

Is it possible for audio comment, on a minister level about this issue?

I'm working towards a piece for midday and my deadline is 11:am.

Nick Butcher
Radio NZ
4 474 1757

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s 9(2)(b)

s 9(2)(g)

s 9(2)(g)

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(b)

s 9(2)(g)

s 9(2)(g)

s 9(2)(b)

s 9(2)(g)

>>> "NEEDHAM, Rebecca (ASIA)" <Rebecca.Needham@maf.govt.nz> 17/05/2010
>>> 12:04 p.m. >>>
[EMAIL] [RESTRICTED]

Hi Tony

(The attachment provides additional background and further detail on the consideration of sending kiwi overseas).

Pandas

On the biosecurity front, there is currently no import health standard for giant pandas in New Zealand, so we would have to apply for one - MAF Biosecurity have advised that the application process can take a long time (possibly years), although some parts of the process could be speeded up (eg. at the start of the process it might be possible to jump to the front of the queue of applications waiting to be looked at) if there are compelling reasons to do so.

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(b)

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To: 'Jo Gascoigne'; 'tim.knox@maf.govt.nz'; 'rebecca.needham@mfat.govt.nz'; Donna Campbell
Cc: Little; Antony Moss
Subject: Wellington Zoo visit

Hi Panda team

Irrelevant

As noted yesterday we formally received (ie signed hardcopy and application fee received) the application last Friday 29 July. We have 60 working days to process it but it is a routine application and we should be able to do it more quickly. The draft timeline is:

- 29 July formally receive application
 - 13 August comments on application back from DoC and MAF
 - 16-20 August Authority considers application by fax back.
 - 23-27 August complete decision document and release
- This leaves us 2 weeks grace/slop (time runs out 10 September) should anything unexpected delay matters.

I note that the giant panda is on appendix one of the CITES list. DoC to cover this off. will contact the appropriate person at

Regards
Geoff



Dr Geoff Ridley
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NEEDHAM, Rebecca (ASIA)

s9(2)(g)(i)

From: Tim Knox [mailto:Tim.Knox@maf.govt.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 10 August 2010 2:22 p.m.
To: NEEDHAM, Rebecca (ASIA); Jo Gascoigne; Geoff Ridley
Subject: RE: RE: Pandas in Auckland?

Yes, that's correct. The Biosecurity Act came into effect in 1993. However I have asked the team if there is any history from this previous event that we can use to assist with the new proposal.

Cheers, Tim

Tim Knox
Director Border Standards
MAF Biosecurity New Zealand
Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace
P O Box 2526
Wellington 6011
New Zealand

s9(2)(g)(i)

From: Jo Gascoigne [mailto:Jo.Gascoigne@dia.govt.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 10 August 2010 2:11 p.m.

21/10/2010

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To: Geoff Ridley; 'Tim Knox'; NEEDHAM, Rebecca (ASIA)
Subj: Pandas in Auckland?

Hi there

I have just found a website that says Auckland zoo hosted a pair of pandas (Xiao Xiao and Fei Fei) in 1988-89.

Here is the link: <http://www.giantpandazoo.com/History.html>

Auckland zoo's website confirms this

"1988 The Zoo plays host to two giant panda bears. Xiao Xiao and Fei Fei. More than 300,000 visitors see the nandas in three months."

Jo Gascoigne
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Local Government and Community Branch
The Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua
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www.dia.govt.nz

59(2)(3)(4)

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s 9(2)(g)(i)

From: Geoff Ridley [mailto:Geoff.Ridley@ermanz.govt.nz]
Sent: Friday, 6 August 2010 11:40 a.m.
To: Jo Gascoigne; Tim Knox; rebecca.needham@mfat.govt.nz; Donna Campbell
Subject: ERMA process

Hi all

The ERMA process is a public one so Wellington Zoo's application will go up on our website in the next two weeks and as soon as the decision document signed that will also go up.

Regards
Geoff

Geoff Ridley
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