



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 16 September 2016

NEW-LOOK TIGER ISLAND OPENS AT DREAMWORLD **THIS SUNDAY 18/9**

Following a \$7million transformation, the first stage of Dreamworld's all-new Tiger Island will open to theme park guests from this Sunday (18/9).

Officially launching the exhibit today, Queensland Minister for Tourism and Major Events, the Honourable Kate Jones MP, welcomed the new-look Tiger Island as a world-class, iconic attraction for Queensland.

Ms Jones said Dreamworld's new Tiger Island was a major new tourism drawcard for the Gold Coast.

"This is a world class animal exhibit providing animal conservation through responsible tourism," she said.

"I congratulate Dreamworld for delivering on their vision combining tiger conservation and tourism development. This exhibit will attract more visitors to Dreamworld and the Gold Coast, supporting jobs and the local tourism economy."

Gold Coast Deputy Mayor, Councillor Donna Gates said the new Tiger Island would further position the city as a leading holiday destination that is constantly evolving with fresh new product to attract more visitors and keep them coming back again and again.

Dreamworld CEO Craig Davidson said the reinvigoration of Tiger Island would ensure the park retained its leading role in the global race to save tigers in the wild.

"The redevelopment of Tiger Island is a significant milestone for Dreamworld and a wonderful gift for our tigers and their wild cousins as we celebrate the 21st anniversary of Tiger Island," said Mr Davidson.

"Turning the spotlight on conservation, visitors to this amazing new conservation precinct will be able to feel closer to our tigers than ever before, encouraging empathy and educating guests on the plight of tigers in the wild.

"It includes interpretive areas and experiences to highlight the wild tiger conservation projects supported by Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation with opportunities for guests to make their own contributions through the Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation."

Dreamworld, through the Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation (DWF), is the largest zoological contributor to tiger conservation worldwide. The park's seven adult tigers and five cubs are ambassadors for their wild counterparts, raising funds for tiger conservation through guest experiences, donations and the park's adopt an animal program.

Australian designed and built, the first stage of the new Tiger Island opening this Sunday includes:

- world-class tiger exhibits and conservation areas with leading animal husbandry facilities
- landscaping by international designer Jamie Durie and his team at Durie Design
- improved viewing areas including a covered stadium seating 500 people
- splash pools with underwater viewing to see the tigers swimming



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- leading audio visual facilities for tiger presentations
- new themed shopping and dining outlets
 - Island Noodle Hut – where guests can savour the tastes of Asia including sumptuous noodles and modern bites overlooking Tiger Island
 - Tiger Bazaar – filled with tiger-themed merchandise including soft toys, clothing, gifts, homewares, DWF merchandise and lots more
- a dedicated undercover corporate events space seating up to 250 people

The second stage of the precinct opening by Christmas will include

- a new Sumatran Tiger habitat to showcase Dreamworld's three Sumatran tigers and the park's contributions to the Sumatran Tiger Global Species Management Program
- A world class lair for Dreamworld's non-contact tigers
- A children's crawl through tunnel and strategically placed windows in the lair and Sumatran Tiger habitat enabling guests to safely experience being face-to-face with a tiger
- enhanced guest experience areas

Mr Davidson said he expected the park's popular tiger photo experiences and tiger presentations to start by Christmas once the tigers had settled into their new home.

***** Tiger-grade design and landscaping ******

Mr Davidson said the Tiger Island project team – which included Dreamworld's Life Sciences staff, local designers and contractors - took their design inspiration from Asia where Dreamworld, through DWF, supports tiger conservation including anti-poaching teams to protect wild tiger reserves.

Internationally-acclaimed designer Jamie Durie and his team were an integral part of the Tiger Island project, extending Mr Durie's existing landscaping work with Dreamworld which has included the Dreamworld globe and entry statements.

"Designing the grounds for Tiger Island was like blending set-design with high-end landscape architecture," said Mr Durie.

"We sourced our plants and landscaping material from local nurseries in South East Queensland and Northern New South Wales, selecting mature plants and hardy species.

"For colour and effect we added variegated plants like Tiger Cycads to reflect the tigers' natural tropical habitat in Asia, balanced with orange Trumpet Vines to really emphasise the tigers' stripes."

Mr Durie said the Tiger Island base was just as important as the foliage.

"Our 'tiger-grade' turf was specially developed to ensure it would be tougher than most football fields and we had to lay sand and silt over Tiger Island's clay base to ensure the grass would put down strong roots and grow quickly," said Mr Durie.

"Overall, I'm delighted and proud how the project has come together. As the Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation Ambassador, I hope this new world class animal exhibition helps us raise even more support for saving tigers in the wild. I encourage everyone to get involved via www.dwf.com.au or make a donation at Tiger Island on your next visit to Dreamworld."



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*** Making in-roads for tiger conservation***

Dreamworld General Manager of Life Sciences and DWF Director, Al Mucci, said the park's conservation efforts were achieving results in the field.

"Some of the anti-poaching teams we support recently caught two tiger poachers in Indonesia and the offenders were subsequently jailed," said Mr Mucci.

"This is a significant win for tiger conservation and a great example of how our collaborative efforts can make a difference."

DWF's tiger conservation partners include 21st Century Tiger, Flora & Fauna International and the Phoenix Fund. Tigers are critically endangered with less than 3,000 left in the wild.

Dreamworld is an active member of the Zoo and Aquarium Association, the peak body representing the zoo and aquarium community throughout Australasia. The park also participates in the Global Species Management Program for Sumatran tigers

For details and best value tickets visit Dreamworld.com.au. For details about the Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation, visit dwf.com.au.

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ABOUT DREAMWORLD

Australia's biggest theme park, Dreamworld is happiness all in one place. Brave the 'Big 9' thrill rides, meet your favourite DreamWorks heroes and ABC KIDS characters, go wild at Tiger Island and discover Indigenous culture and Australian wildlife at Dreamworld Corroboree. Don't miss the Motorsports Experience now open featuring the world's first Hot Wheels themed rollercoaster - the Hot Wheels SideWinder - and the world's largest collection of Peter Brock racing cars in Brock's Garage. Australia's first LEGO Certified Store will open at the park this November. When the fun heats up, you can cool down at Dreamworld's interconnecting water park WhiteWater World. For details and best value tickets visit www.dreamworld.com.au

ABOUT DREAMWORLD WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (DWF)

Dreamworld plays an active role in the fostering and protection of the region's wildlife through the Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation (DWF). Established in 2012, DWF is an internationally recognised fund committed to the protection, education and conservation of the earth's most magnificent creatures and habitats, crucial to their survival. DWF makes significant donations to fund anti-poaching patrols and conservation initiatives in Russia and Indonesia to help save tigers in the wild through its conservation partners 21st Century Tiger, Flora & Fauna International and the Phoenix Fund.