

January 30, 2008

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to support Waterfall Springs' application for funding through the Australian Government Regional Partnerships Program to expand and improve its existing operating facilities and progress the current breeding program to its second stage in line with NSW State priority recovery objectives for the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby (BTRW) species.

Waterfall Springs has been an Institutional Member of Australasian Regional Zoo and Aquarium Association (ARAZPA) since the 2002, and has always played a large role within the region's breeding programs for both the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby and Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby, under the auspices of the Australasian Species Management Program (ASMP).

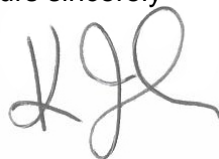
The purpose of this particular breeding program is to ensure the persistence of a population of Central Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies in ARAZPA institutions, that can provide animals for release to the wild, as part of conservation-based reintroduction programs managed through the NSW Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby Recovery Team.

Waterfall Springs has been involved in this program since its inception in 2004, and currently hold 35 breeding animals, with plans to expand to a population of 45, as requested by the Recovery Team. Waterfall Springs has been entrusted with animals captured from the wild, because of their commitment to the program, along with the suitability of their situation and high standard of their animal care facilities. They have so far been very successful with their breeding of this species, and are committed to following any recommendations made by the program managers.

For programs such as this to succeed the continued expansion and improvement of facilities such as Waterfall Springs is a necessity. Funding of this project will help deliver significant environmental and conservation benefits via the reestablishment of an endangered species. The loss of species is a major threat to biodiversity in Australia and requires a social and educated responsibility for its conservation and management. Waterfall Springs is dedicated to working with other ARAZPA institutions to help safeguard Australia's wildlife and natural resources.

Conservation-minded zoos and aquariums must cooperate proactively with human development agencies, national and international conservation agencies, government departments and local communities, to ensure long-term sustainable solutions to the ever-increasing threats to our wildlife. I have no doubt that the expansion of the facilities at Waterfall Springs will play a very active role in this regard, and I strongly support the development of this facility

Yours sincerely



Kevin Johnson
Acting Executive Director
ARAZPA