

Frequently Asked Questions: Southern White Rhinoceros conservation

For more than 20 years, Monarto Safari Park has cared for and bred rhinos – and that work isn't stopping.

The global conservation landscape has changed significantly in recent years. Changes to South African export policy, the wind-up of The Australian Rhino Project (TARP), and the growing complexity of international wildlife transfers mean that large-scale rhino relocations are no longer a realistic or appropriate pathway for the region.

We know this will be disappointing for supporters who were excited by that possibility – and we want to be honest about it.

Here's what that means in practice:

- The existing crash of rhinos at Monarto Safari Park remains the heart of this work, and our breeding and management programs continue.
- Any future rhino movements into the region will be guided by international breeding recommendations, genetic priorities, and animal welfare.
- The Anthony Taylor Quarantine Facility remains on track to be operational by the end of 2026, supporting future conservation opportunities and safe, ethical, biosecure relocation of exotic species across the region.
- We're continuing to work with accredited zoo partners across Australia and internationally to support sustainable rhino populations into the future.

Conservation strategies have to adapt as science, policy, and global conditions evolve. We're committed to making sure Monarto Safari Park's contribution to rhino conservation remains meaningful, evidence-based, and impactful – now and into the future.





Frequently Asked Questions

We know some people will have questions, so we've provided some answers here. If you have a specific question or would like to talk further, please email us at information@zoossa.com.au and we'll make sure we get back to you.

Are rhinos still coming to Monarto Safari Park?

Not in the large numbers that were once discussed. Changes to South African export policy, the wind-up of The Australian Rhino Project (TARP), and the significant (and increasing) complexity of international wildlife transfers mean that large-scale relocations are no longer a realistic pathway. We are still exploring opportunities with our regional and international counterparts, but any future rhino movements into the region will be carefully managed, guided by international breeding recommendations and genetic priorities. We'll share more as those discussions progress.

Does this mean the rhino project failed?

No – though we understand why some people may feel that way, and we don't dismiss that. Monarto Safari Park has successfully cared for and bred rhinos for over 20 years, and that work continues. Circumstances changed: global conservation priorities shifted, policy settings in South Africa changed, and the organisation that led the large-scale relocation effort – The Australian Rhino Project – has wound up. Zoos SA's commitment to rhinos hasn't.

What happened to the money raised?

Funds raised over the life of the project have gone toward conservation work that made a real difference:

- Development of the \$1.1 million Anthony Taylor Quarantine Facility to support future conservation opportunities and safe, ethical relocation of exotic species across the region.
- Construction of the Rhino Raceway around Monarto Safari Park, ensuring optimal welfare for rhinos to move between habitats and back of house animal health facilities.
- \$156,000 to support community-led rangers protecting rhinos at Sera Conservancy.
- Over \$60,000 to support Honorary Rangers in Kruger National Park fighting poaching.
- Specialist care and breeding of rhinos at Monarto Safari Park.
- Conservation education for hundreds of thousands of visitors.

What is the Anthony Taylor Quarantine Facility actually used for now?

The facility was always designed to support biosecure import of large exotic species more broadly – not exclusively for large-scale rhino transfers. It remains on track to be operational in 2026 and will support future conservation opportunities across a range of species, including any carefully managed rhino movements that may happen in future.

What was Zoos SA's relationship with The Australian Rhino Project?

TARP was an independent organisation that worked toward the large-scale relocation of wild rhinos from South Africa to Australia. Zoos SA and Monarto Safari Park were a partner in those discussions and shared that conservation ambition. The wind-up of TARP – and the changes to South African export policy that significantly contributed to it – are outcomes that affected the whole sector, not decisions made by Zoos SA.

What happens to the rhinos already at Monarto Safari Park?

They remain exactly where they are, and they remain the centre of our work in rhino conservation. Monarto Safari Park's breeding and management programs continue, and the crash of rhinos at the Park and Wild Africa plays an important role in maintaining genetically valuable populations for both Southern White Rhinoceros, and the critically endangered Black Rhinoceros.

