



EARTHCHECK

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Skyrail Rainforest Cableway is a unique sustainable tourism attraction which seeks to provide its guests with the best rainforest experience available anywhere in the world.

Being based in the heart of Australia's World Heritage listed Tropical Rainforest, Skyrail is committed to the highest standards of environmental responsibility and management. Skyrail was the first company in the world to achieve Certification with EarthCheck science and has achieved Gold Certified standard.

Skyrail is committed to:

Protecting the natural and cultural heritage values of the area by complying with all legislation, licences, permits and agreements, and maintaining an Environmental Management System in accordance with company standards and ISO 14001

Ensuring that all employees, guests and suppliers are informed of Skyrail's Environmental and Social Sustainability policy and are aware of their contribution toward Skyrail's environmental responsibilities

Training staff and contractors to have the appropriate skills and knowledge to ensure that operations are completed with the utmost respect for the environmental values and cultural heritage of the area

Striving for continuous, year-on-year improvement in environmental, social and financial performance

Supporting the local community by employing locally-based personnel and purchasing locally-produced products wherever possible

Providing education and communication to improve understanding and appreciation of tropical rainforest environments

Providing ongoing contributions towards state of the art tropical rainforest research

SKYRAIL RAINFOREST CABLEWAY, CAIRNS

Skyrail Rainforest Cableway is located in Cairns, Australia and is one of the World's most beautiful rainforest experiences. A world first in sustainable tourism, Skyrail provides guests with the unique opportunity to experience Australia's World Heritage listed Tropical Rainforests with negligible impact on the environment.

Spanning 7.5km, Skyrail Rainforest Cableway has comfortable six person gondola cabins which glide just metres above the canopy providing spectacular and uninterrupted views of the rainforest, tropical Cairns, the Coral Sea and the lush Cairns Highlands.

Guests witness the wonders of the world's oldest continually surviving rainforests from Skyrail's unique vantage point before alighting at two mid-stations to explore and learn more about this fascinating environment from the forest floor.

Barron Falls Station offers a state of the art Rainforest Interpretive Centre, which was developed in conjunction with CSIRO, Australia's national scientific organisation. The Rainforest Interpretive Centre houses interactive, multilingual touch screen computers and audio-visual presentations, providing a fun and informative learning experience for people of all ages.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS

REDUCING THE USE OF FRESHWATER AND WASTEWATER GENERATION

Skyrail is committed to using minimal water in its operation and to protecting the World Heritage values the rainforest by eliminating the possibility of harmful liquid waste entering the rainforest. Initiatives to reduce freshwater use and wastewater generation include:

INITIATIVES:

Monitoring water quality from stormwater and testing for hydrocarbon and diesel as a part of this process

Installing only cold water taps in toilet facilities at all stations

Using bore water for garden irrigation wherever possible

Installing rainwater collection tanks undergoes ultra violet sterilisation for use at Skyrail's mid-stations

Installing Clivus Multrum composting toilets and set of detailed procedures are including in an Integrated Environmental Management System for testing and removing Liquid End Product (LEP)

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Skyrail's policy is to minimise energy use wherever possible through the implementation of energy saving guiding principles. Through Skyrail's Green Family training program, all staff are provided with information regarding Skyrail's best practice guidelines for energy minimisation, and encouraged by management to be conscious of efficient energy use.



Energy minimisation is achieved through:

INITIATIVES:

Over 90% of infrastructure lighting being fluorescent, rather than incandescent

Air conditioning installed only in administration areas and areas housing sensitive electronic equipment

Encouraging maximum use of natural light in buildings during daylight hours

Minimising need for air conditioning and lighting through the passive design of buildings (aspect, colour, texture, etc)

Use of automatic controls (e.g. timers, movement sensors) and other energy efficient equipment

Encouraging staff to carpool

A solar powered communication system to service all cableway gondolas

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND EMPOWERMENT

Skyrail annually benchmarks its social sustainability for accreditation. Initiatives include:

INITIATIVES:

Wherever possible, Skyrail employs local people for its construction, operation and maintenance activities

A preference for employing staff on a permanent basis, either full time or part time, to provide job security and benefits such as sick leave and superannuation

A strong focus on education and interactive learning to promote understanding and appreciation of the natural environment

Commitment to selling retail products with a local content to support local business

SOLID WASTE REDUCTION

Skyrail annually benchmarks the amount of material recycled via the Skyrail invoicing system and EarthCheck performance indicator software.

Waste reductions have been achieved through:

INITIATIVES:

Recycling of almost all products

Use of recycling bins at guest terminals, mid-stations and boardwalks. The bins are emptied on a daily basis and all bottles, cans and other materials for recycling are picked up by a recycling contractor regularly

Administering an office paper recycling system with recycling bins located throughout all administration buildings. The bins are cleared three times a week, and the paper is then weighed and deposited into contractor recycling bins

Encouraging staff to be conscious of recyclable or reusable items

All rubber products from the cableway are 100% recycled

PURCHASING SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS

Daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly monitoring programs are in place to ensure that Skyrail's resource – the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area – is conserved.

Many practices are in place to ensure conservation of resources and purchasing of sustainable products, including:

INITIATIVES:

double-sided printing from printers and photocopiers

reusing scrap paper for message pads

Using a high percentage of ecolabel paper products for stationery, brochures and bags

recycling all oils, fuels and solvents through licensed recyclers

Commitment to purchasing local products wherever possible, such as computer touch screens used in the Interpretive Centre