

## Sustainable Management at Silky Oaks Lodge

Baillie Lodges is a collection of environmentally sustainable luxury lodges in remarkable wilderness destinations. A proactive approach to environmental management is essential the guest experience at each property, to the ongoing well-being of the destination and to the sustainability of business in experiential tourism.

Baillie Lodges' management holds an impressive track record of operating environmentally considered lodges in remote locations; they are often included in World Heritage-listed regions or bordering national and marine parks.

The company's commitment to the environment is best seen in each lodge's day-to-day interaction with its local natural and cultural surroundings. A dynamic environmental management plan featuring state-of-the-art, continually evolving technologies steers lodge operations and ultimately enhances each guest's experience of the destination.

### **Biodiversity Protection & Conservation**

Silky Oaks Lodge is located on the banks of the Mossman River, constructed on 40 hectares of land adjoining the Daintree Rainforest National Park, which was listed as a World Heritage site in 1988. At just 27 kilometres from Port Douglas and 78 kilometres from Cape Tribulation, Silky Oaks is also at the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Native vegetation in the area is predominantly undisturbed rainforest, which supports a range of native birds, lizards and snakes.

Silky Oaks Lodge works to an Environmental Management Plan (EMP), an overarching document that outlines how Silky Oaks Lodge operates to efficiently manage resources, details the responsibilities of all employees, and establishes objectives and targets designed to improve environmental management.

It ensures compliance and prescribes the resort's activities and systems relating to the environment, from water and waste management to energy conservation, recycling and the monitoring of machinery output to ensure peak performance.

### **Energy Management**

The aspect and architectural design of the property has been planned to maximise benefits of the natural weather patterns of the location, encouraging flow-through ventilation and the use of glazing to capture sunlight and store natural heat.

Silky Oaks Lodge guest treehouses are set high above the Mossman River and among the rainforest canopy, with deep verandas and wide doors allowing cool breezes to flow to guest areas.

### **Renewable Energy and Energy Savings**

Silky Oaks Lodge has a dedicated energy management plan, designed to improve the efficient use and conservation of energy, with responsibility shared among resort staff and extended to guests. Silky Oaks operates on mains power supplied from the Mossman power grid, with a generator onsite for use in times of power loss. Wherever possible, energy efficient equipment is utilised to reduce energy consumption; this includes low wattage light globes and 'daylight switches'.

### **Waste Management**

Extensive recycling is undertaken at Silky Oaks Lodge, with staff separating compostable materials, cardboard and paper, glass, plastic, aluminium and rubbish. Biodegradable chemicals are used for cleaning.

All waste water at Silky Oaks Lodge is sent to the property's own waste water management plant, a gated facility located 200 metres from the resort. The plant comprises a series of above ground aeration and settling tanks, from which waste water is processed through a sand filter system and stored for use. The result is second grade effluent suitable for irrigation, which is distributed around the property's forested areas fed via a sprinkler system.

A dedicated Waste Management plan has been developed and is in action at Silky Oaks Lodge, designed to minimise the property's environmental impact by reducing products brought into the resort and improving the reuse and recycling of waste materials.

Under the plan, responsibility is shared among staff and guests to minimise disposable products coming onto the property and maximising recycling through a vigilant sorting process. Recycled materials include glass, aluminium and plastics, paper and cardboard, cooking oil, printer cartridges and vehicle batteries.

### **Water Management**

Silky Oaks Lodge features accredited bathroom and shower fittings to ensure efficient systems for guests to minimise their water usage. Guests are encouraged to opt for towel and linen changes every third day of their stay, potentially saving 250,000 litres a year per lodge as well as minimising detergent use.