



Down Under Tours Group of Companies

GREEN POLICY – Condensed version

As a Transport and Transport Logistics Supplier

With significant diversity in its natural resources, Australia is an environment where enormous opportunity exists for people to learn more about the area's natural and cultural resources.

The Down Under Tours Group of Companies has made a firm commitment to environmental sustainability through the support and participation of local studies, the implementation of staff accreditation and achieving nationally and internationally recognised company accreditation.

Additionally, best practice operations management is a fundamental component of the Down Under Tours Group commitment to environmental sustainability. It includes the focus on energy management, waste management and contribution to conservation through all levels of the Company.



| ECO CERTIFICATION:

Ecotourism certification provide industry, protected area managers, local communities and travellers with an assurance that a certified product is backed by a commitment to best practice ecological sustainability, natural area management and the provision of quality ecotourism experiences.

Eligibility for Ecotourism Accreditation is based upon the following principles:

- **Economic Sustainability**
- **Environmental Sustainability**
- **Social Sustainability**

Each of the above principles is reflected in specific assessment criteria that establish the category of Ecotourism certification. Ecotourism certification has two levels; Ecotourism and Advanced Ecotourism. Each level of certification incorporates a more stringent set of assessment criteria. The criteria for Advanced Ecotourism also encourage and reward innovative best practice that exceeds the Eco Certification Program standards.



| ACCREDITED AUSTRALIAN TOURISM BUSINESS:

The Australian Tourism Accreditation Standard helps define core business activities and good business practices required by enterprise essential for a viable tourism business. It is against the key elements of the Standard, a business wishing to become accredited is formally assessed.

The Down Under Tours Group is a range of businesses which meets the requirements of the Standard and has gained accreditation status, signals to its customers and to the wider industry that it is committed to providing quality business standards, customer service and experience.



| PLANET SAFE PARTNERSHIP:

Planet Safe Partnership is a recognition program developed and maintained by Tourism Tropical North Queensland. It recognises Tropical North Queensland products and businesses who are achieving excellent results in terms of environmental sustainability.

Planet Safe is deliberately flexible in its assessment criteria because many companies can and are doing lots of great things for the environment in ways that are specific to their business. Three core criteria must be met by Planet Safe Partners;

- **Energy Foot Print Audits**
- **Proof of Best Practice Operations**
- **Putting Something Back**

No matter how much a business tries there will end up being some form of environmental impact. This can be compensated for by giving something back to the environment. To qualify for Planet Safe Partnership endorsement businesses need to participate in some recognised environmental improvement project.



| AUSTRALIAN RAINFOREST FOUNDATION:

The Australian Rainforest Foundation (ARF) is an incorporated not-for-profit organisation dedicated to education, research and habitat rehabilitation for Australia's rainforests. The ARF builds global awareness and support for Australia's rainforests by funding enhancement programs made possible through investment, sponsorship and donations from corporate and private citizens.

Although endorsed and supported by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments the ARF believes that Australia's Rainforests can not survive without the help of 'every day' citizens from Australia and around the world.

To this end, the Down Under Tours Group of Companies were invited in 2004 to become members of the Australian Rainforest Foundation and offered the opportunity to 'Adopt a Cassowary' as part of Operation Big Bird. With delight we accepted the invitation and have been proud to be financial members of the Australian Rainforest Foundation since this time.

| TRAVEL PROCEDURES AND OFFSETTING:

The Down Under Tours Group has implemented a range of initiatives to ensure we minimise our environmental impacts:

- Our bus fleet is constantly upgraded to ensure fuel efficiency and lower carbon emissions. In fact, Down Under Tours has spent over \$6.9 million in the last 2 years upgrading its fleet to ensure continuous improvements in fuel efficiency and the delivery of lower carbon emissions by investing in vehicles which are manufactured at minimum industry emissions standards of Euro3 and Euro4.
- We have recently engaged The Missing Link – Resource Coordinators Pty Ltd to conduct an Eco-efficiency Audit to document what is currently happening and to set a benchmark against which to operate and reduce impacts into the future.

| WASTE MANAGEMENT:

At the Down Under Tours Group, we consider an integrated approach to managing waste that minimises environmental impacts whilst maximising efficiency. Being a large coach operator with waste outputs from vehicle services and maintenance, we must ensure that waste management practices to be of a very high standard. Holding trade waste licences with Cairns City Council and the Environmental Protection Agency we undergo regular compliance audits by these departments in order to maintain our licence validity and to ensure the ongoing quality and improvement in our waste management systems.

| ENERGY MANAGEMENT:

The Down Under Tours Group considers the management of energy within the entirety of its operation. The regular maintenance and servicing of premises equipment and vehicles including waste disposal, air-conditioning units and fleet vehicles has been found to reduce oil and fuel/diesel consumption while decreasing emissions and improving reliability and customer confidence.

| REFRIGERANT HANDLING:

As an authorised business with the Australia Refrigeration Council (ARC), the Down Under Tours Group is dedicated to making a difference to our industry and our environment. Our authorisation with ARC means that we are a business dedicated to minimising the effect of refrigerants on ozone damage and global warming. ARC, in conjunction with the Department of the Environment and Water Resources, is continuing to protect and promote the values of our industry to ensure the highest standards are maintained.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SUPPORTING THE DOWN UNDER TOURS GROUP OF COMPANIES COMMITMENT TO BEING 'GREEN'

| SUPPORTING AND PARTICIPATING IN LOCAL STUDIES:

As a member of the local community and as a tourism industry representative, the Down Under Tours Group is assisting with gathering research data for the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTSRF) through survey collection on selected touring programs.

The aim of MTSRF is to ensure the health of North Queensland's public environmental assets - particularly the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) and its catchments, tropical rainforests including the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (WTWHA), and the Torres Strait - through the generation and transfer of world-class research and sharing knowledge.

| CONTRIBUTION TO CONSERVATION:

The Down Under Tours Group has provided constructive contributions to the management of natural areas visited and to its operation in natural areas and business sector. This has included:

- Removal of customer's litter and rubbish in areas used for tours.
- Monitoring assistance for the rehabilitation of areas subject to negative visitor impacts, including the participation in studies and data collection.
- Provision of concessional rates to schools and other institutions for studying the conservation of the environment.
- Encouraging passengers to complete our On-line Passenger Surveys instead of paper ones