

QSTATION

Environmental Audit

## Environmental Audit

In October 2007, just a year after the Lease was activated, we completed our first Environmental Audit. The Audit is designed for an independent check on how well we are complying with the Conditions of Approval and how environmentally responsible we are performing generally.

Our overall audit performance score was 92%, which represents *very good* environmental performance. We scored 96.9% in the Operational Control section, which covers main environmental management measures and application of management plans (such as cultural heritage, flora and fauna, noise management). We also scored very highly in the sections of control of environmental records, communication, training, and monitoring. The auditors commented that lower scores will be improved once there are more documentation/ procedures. No recommendations were made that would hold up the project and progression to Stage 3 of the development program.

The Draft Report auditing our environmental compliance was released to approval agencies and members of the Quarantine Station Community Committee for comment. Feedback was extremely favourable and in March 2008 the Final Report was presented to the Minister for Planning for signoff.

The next Environmental Audit is due to occur in 2012.

## Sustainability Policy

We believe that the Conditions of Approval provide a narrow and reactive approach to achieving sustainability. So we have produced a Sustainability Policy to add the missing policies and initiatives needed to move the Q Station closer to sustainable tourism.

Our policy is structured around nine objectives:

1. The key elements of the natural environment are maintained
2. Operational consumption of resources is efficient
3. Cultural heritage is maintained in good condition
4. Visitation patterns reflect forecasts
5. Customers expectations are met
6. Visitors recognise key site values and protocols

7. The operation has a positive profile among stakeholders and the local community
8. The Q Station business is financially viable
9. Business partnerships are mutually beneficial

The Sustainability Policy provides for each of these objective a small set of targets and strategies to generate a more sustainable operation, and each of the objectives is monitored through the IMAMS (as outlined above).

If you would like to download our Sustainability Policy visit

<http://www.qstation.com.au/PDFs/070619 Sust Policy - Draft 3.pdf>

Despite all of the community consultation and all of the improvements to the Proposal, there are still some people with concerns. The main ongoing concern appears to be with the introduction of the private sector and head lease on a site of high significance.

We acknowledge that a degree of caution is a natural and sound part of anyone's attitude towards this venture. We have responded by undertaking ongoing consultation, making many changes to the Proposal, and introducing a sophisticated form of monitoring and adaptive management. We welcome anyone interested in working directly with us to address their concerns, but must acknowledge that sometimes, fundamentally differing points of view are also possible and not always a bad thing.

## The Role of DECC

The Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) continue to be the ultimate manager responsible for the former Quarantine Station, and as landlord, oversee us to ensure we meet the conditions of an approval and the conditions of a lease.

The DECC provide environmental management staff to manage our compliance with Approval Conditions, assist with environmental monitoring, Community Committee, community days and environmental reporting and audits. DECC staff are based near the entrance, in building S7. The strategic location of building S7 provides a readily accessible place for visitors to contact the DECC on business or issues associated with environmental management of the former Quarantine Station.



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