

The Eco side of the Retreat

- Use of natural products (No use of chemicals).
- Use of solar panels/Eco-friendly waste water treatment systems/sewerage systems.
- Collection of recyclables.
- Recycled rubbish bags are provided.
- More Eco-friendly policies and educational signage have been erected for visitors throughout the Retreat & the park to encourage eco-friendly practices.
- Education on the history & cultural significance of the area
- Hot water bottles are provided (No heater).
- The Retreat is made of recycled materials & is designed to maximize natural ventilation via tropical roof.
- Eco-friendly products available for guests: Branded Aluminum water bottles, canvas backpacks, tin mugs for tea/coffee, natural soaps & creams.
- Noise and Vehicle control and use.
- Indigenous employment and involvement.
- Support of local business and groups.
- The staff are trained and briefed in the sustainability principles that govern the operation of the retreat.
- The on-site manager has commenced conducting tours of the ecosystems & site operations for staff and guests to be informed of the fragile environment and the requirements to ensure eco sustainable operational practices.

Water Resources

- Water is provided by an installed bore. Use is monitored and logged daily to ensure the per visitor consumption target is not exceeded.
- Interpretation/signage is displayed at all water usage points that encourage guests to actively conserve water, i.e. keep all showers to a maximum of four minutes.
- Use of low flow showerheads and spring loaded taps to minimise water volumes.
- All linen is laundered in Perth and the laundry (Prime) was selected because of its water recycling principles.
- Dishes are washed by hand.

Electric vehicles are used extensively throughout the retreat as a means of service and guest transportation:

- Staff use push bikes or walk to reduce vehicle usage throughout the retreat.
- All off site transport is coordinated so that multiple tasks are completed collectively such as Post & Banking, shopping, rubbish removal, staff shift and roster changes and guest transfers.
- Guests are encouraged to “Park and Walk” when in the Retreat area.

Solar system:

The main power source for the retreat is delivered via a Hybrid Solar System. This comprises of 150 x BP solar 150w panels, with a total generating capacity of 22.5kWp. These charge a large battery bank providing the majority of the power required by the retreat. This hybrid solar system uses photovoltaic technology backed up by diesel generator.

Tree revegetation program:

The retreat, in conjunction with DEC senior officers is now managing a tree revegetation program utilising its waste treatment system. This program was brought about after a significant area of the national park, including much of the retreats outer leased area was severely burnt out in November 2009 and January 2010. The waste treatment system is designed to separate solid and liquid waste, the liquid waste after treatment is pumped to a 30m x 30m evaporation pad. The pad was chosen as the ideal location to propagate endemic plants that will later be used in the revegetation of the burnt areas.

Over the past year, the continued development of Karijini Eco Retreat has been reflected in the additions of innovative new products, green initiatives services and facilities:

- To maintain a glass free national park where possible, the retreat serves all beverages in polycarbonate glassware, can products are preferred and used over that of bottled products, PET wine bottles have also been sourced.
- Aluminium hot/cold thermos/bottles are provided to the guests to take (decanted) wine and other beverages back to their tents. These aluminium bottles are also re-filled free of charge with water, thus reducing the need for plastic water bottles.
- Maps and menus are now laminated to make them re-usable and minimize wastage.
- An electric “golf buggy” which is powered using solar power, is now utilized to assist guests (With a disability, the elderly & large coach groups) to be transferred to and from their eco tents on arrival, after tours and for meal times and provide a luggage delivery service.
- The site map that is handed out to guests has been redesigned to include low impact walking trails and more concise information on preserving the environment.

- Manager enrolled in diploma of Environmental Studies through the local TAFE