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*Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia*

# **TOURISM & ENVIRONMENT TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY**

*Mandy McLeod, Environment Officer*

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# OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS



# NATURAL RESOURCES: GUEST OPTIONS



# WHERE DO OUR GUESTS COME FROM?

Country	Hotels (%)	Campground (%)
Australia	54.3	87.7
United States	9.2	0.6
Japan	8.0	0.3
Great Britain	6.5	1.1
Germany	4.1	2.8
Italy	2.6	0.4
France	2.4	2.0
China	1.6	0.8
Others or undefined	11.5	4.4

# SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

- Energy supply and consumption
- Footprint size of hotels, planted gardens, overall fairly small;
- Water consumption and reduction measures
- Waste reduction and recycling opportunities;
- Controlling pests and weeds
- Threatened species

# ENERGY SUPPLY: TJINTU SOLAR FIELD

- 1.8MW system, installed 2016;
- reduce reliance on fossil fuels;
- Produces 15% to 30% daily electricity requirements;
- 5 separate sites, different areas, negate “cloud effect”;



# WATER CONSUMPTION REDUCTION PROJECT 2018

- Power & Water responsible for all groundwater extraction, treatment & supply;
- In partnership with Power & Water have instigated project to reduce water consumption;
- Chasing reductions of over 50%;
- Additional water saving devices in guest accommodation and hotel gardens



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# HOW COME WE ENDED UP ON THE OUTBACK TRUCKERS PROGRAM?



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# RECYCLING



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# THREATENED SPECIES



# CHALLENGES

- Number of guests in small area and associated ground and sand dune stability from that amount of foot traffic;
- What do you mean I can't camp wherever I would like to?;
  - off road campers..... anywhere;
  - risk of fires from uncontained campfires, especially in spinifex;
  - disturbance to specific areas, including threatened species monitoring sites;
  - flattening of spinifex, shrubs, cutting down of Desert oaks, protected species etc.
  - tying their washing line to No Camping signs.....
- Remote location, all the challenges that brings;
- Staff turnover, knowledge of area, environmental outcomes, training etc.

# THE FUTURE?

- Rolling out ISO 14,001 Environment management system 2018 – 2019, standardising, documenting items discussed;
- Diesel at \$2.20/L, what happens as it increases in price, what is the tipping point for towing caravans, is \$3/L, \$4/L?
- Had our first guest Tesla, in October 2018, 3 phase power.
- 5 new electric vehicles (Hyundai, Nissan, Jaguar, Tesla) to be launched on Australian market next year. Can drive from Adelaide to Darwin in an electric car;
- Increasing urbanisation, citification of world, attraction of the remote;
- Appears to becoming a near pilgrimage experience for many Australians
- Uluru climb closes October 2019;
- Tourism subject to world events, terrorism, global financial crisis etc.

# QUESTIONS



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