

# Case Study in Sustainable Tourism



## SKYRAIL RAINFOREST CABLEWAY - CAIRNS



The Skyrail Rainforest Cableway's vision is to provide the world's most beautiful rainforest experience.

Certified through Ecotourism Australia since 1997, Skyrail operates a 7.5km long cableway from the coastal plain near Cairns to Kuranda, a village in the rainforest on the nearby mountain range.

Ranger guided tours are scheduled regularly on the boardwalk at Red Peak Station and stunning views can be enjoyed from lookouts over the spectacular Barron Falls.

The interactive CSIRO Interpretive Centre at Barron Falls station provides a high level of education and adds to the cableway travel over the rainforest canopy. Skyrail provides a life enhancing environmental experience.

### ROLE OF CERTIFICATION

The underlying principle of the development of Skyrail was to provide a sustainable rainforest tourism experience. In line with this, three factors were instrumental in our decision to undertake certification:

- to meet the principles of ecotourism and commit to assessment
- to benefit from the ecotourism branding
- to play a role as an industry leader in encouraging sustainable tourism.

Certification is a process that requires a range of measures to be considered and if necessary, changes made to meet the required standards. A commitment and time is needed to complete initial certification requirements making the process demanding, but rewarding.

Certification encourages a discipline in maintaining processes and standards and provides confidence to the consumer in their purchasing decisions.

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Skyrail formed the Skyrail Rainforest Foundation, an organisation that the cableway contributes to and that raises and distributes funds for rainforest research and education projects.

The Foundation's vision is "the protection of tropical rainforests worldwide through sound management, understanding and appreciation through research and education".

Examples of projects funded by the Foundation include:

- Evolution Of The Rainforest Canopy - Yumiko Baba
- Microbats In The Wet Tropics - Tamara Inkster
- Impact Of Roads - Peter Byrnes
- Rainforest Phenology - Dr Mike Liddell
- Amphibian Population Declines - Robert Puschendorf
- Papua New Guinea Rainforest - Elizabeth Pryde
- Skyrail Rainforest Foundation Cyclone Larry Project



**Skyrail Rainforest Cableway**  
Cairns, Queensland,  
E: [mail@skyrail.com.au](mailto:mail@skyrail.com.au)  
W: [www.skyrail.com.au](http://www.skyrail.com.au)



**Skyrail Rainforest Foundation**  
Cairns, Queensland, 4870  
E: [info@skyrailfoundation.org](mailto:info@skyrailfoundation.org)  
W: [www.skyrailfoundation.org](http://www.skyrailfoundation.org)