[](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/)Luxury Lodges of Australia Media Backgrounders: HALO EFFECT

# Halo Effect: Conservation

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| Partnering with academia and other experts to support the best conservation science | Many of the 19 [Luxury Lodges of Australia](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/) are located in places of environmental – as well as cultural – significance. The majority lie adjacent to, or actually within, National Parks or UNESCO World Heritage Areas including the Great Barrier Reef, the Daintree Rainforest, Ningaloo Reef, Lord Howe Island and more.  The lodge owners and their teams recognise the privilege of doing business in these wild and precious places. Our natural environments are the number one asset and main attraction. While the Lodges provide a luxurious ‘base camp’, the compelling reason for our guests to visit is to explore the surrounding environments.  There is an increasingly clear business imperative, as well as a moral and personal responsibility to protect these remarkable and vulnerable ecosystems - and to share conservation progress and successes with guests.  Across the portfolio, the lodges either act as a conduit for, or directly implement, a number of conservation projects, from collaborating with conservation organisations to sponsoring scientific research on site; from financial contributions through their charitable foundations; to encouraging guests to participate in citizen science activities that contribute to important research.  The collective goal is to facilitate research and projects that will inform and improve conservation management in diverse and fragile environments, both where the lodges operate and across the country. |
| Arkaba ConservancyLeading the Way in Regenerative Tourism | In 2010, Wild Bush Luxury – owner/operator of [Arkaba Station](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/arkaba/) – began removing sheep from the pastoral lease. It was the first step in turning the property, one of Australia’s most beautiful and ecologically-significant landscapes, into a 24 000-hectare private nature conservancy.  In the ensuing years, Arkaba staff – often working in conjunction with scientists and National Parks and Wildlife – have conducted aerial and ground-based feral animal eradication programs, including removing around 4 000 goats, 400 foxes and 400 feral cats, which kill millions of native animals every night. Extensive weed control and monitoring programs also operate across the property.  The results have been astonishing and visible. Extremely long-lived native plant species such as Bullock bush are recovering and spreading more broadly, and the regrowth of native grasses has halted the erosion of creek lines.  Two colonies of Yellow-footed Rock wallabies have re-established themselves for the first time in 18 years; a Brush-tailed possum has been sighted after being regionally extinct for 75 years, and many native bird populations have seen substantial recovery. Most significantly, four Western Spotted quolls have been sighted following a re-introduction program, having been extinct in South Australia for a century.  The Arkaba guest experience is geared towards environmental awareness and education, and re-connecting with nature, and guests can get hands-on involvement with a range of conservation projects during their stay. |
| Saffire FreycinetHelping to Save the Tassie Devil | [Saffire Freycinet](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/saffire/) has created a one-hectare, luxury ‘retirement home’ for the state’s most famous carnivorous marsupial, the Tasmanian Devil, supporting conservation efforts to re-build the population and raise money for research.  Tasmanian Devils across the island have been heavily impacted by a rare form of cancer – Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD) - that has seen populations decimated by up to 95 per cent, resulting in the feisty animals being listed as Endangered.  The Saffire free-range enclosure is home to mature adults which have been involved in the government captive breeding program and whose genes are now well-represented in the insurance population. The enclosure provides a sanctuary and a high quality of life, while also freeing up space in the government facilities for more breeding animals.  It’s also an opportunity for Saffire guests to see and learn about the Devils in a natural setting – and even adopt one. Guests have raised over $175 000 and Saffire has contributed $25 000 to the Menzies Institute for Medical Research, which has made significant advances in developing a vaccine for the disease. |
| Emirates One&Only  Wolgan ValleyField Guides and Guests Working to Revive the Landscape Post Bushfire | For the past decade, one of the guest experiences at [Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/wolganvalley/) was to participate in seed collection. Seedlings grown from the resulting seed bank of over one million seeds, representing 25 native species, are now playing a vital role in repopulating the Wolgan Valley landscape following the bushfires that raged through the valley in 2019.  Much of the 2 800-hectare Wolgan Valley property escaped the full force of the fires and restoration of those areas is well underway. These pockets of green are now providing a sanctuary for many native birds and mammals, assisted in part by staff and guests who are re-establishing habitats by installing nest boxes, and collecting fallen timber, organic matter and branches and using them to re-create habitat complexity.  This work supports the whole ecosystem, but particularly insects, reptiles and small marsupials which were most heavily impacted by the bushfires.  Several ‘Habitat Recovery Areas’ have been identified and will provide an important source of environmental data in future programs to monitor ecosystem recovery. Already, there are strong signs of renewal, with resilient native trees sprouting new growth and kangaroos and wallabies thriving.  EOOWV was the first resort in the world to be internationally accredited as Carbon Neutral when it opened in 2009. It retained this standard in the ensuing years largely through the environmental improvements made to the property. The post-fire restoration of the landscape is the next chapter in the natural history of the valley and the lodge. |
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| The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 global goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 to achieve a more sustainable and equitable world by 2030. The Luxury Lodges of Australia are committed to conservation through sustainable operations and the protection of natural and cultural assets. | |