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

# Halo Effect: Minimising our carbon footprint

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Incorporating minimum impact practices into our DNA to reduce our carbon footprint | The [Luxury Lodges of Australia](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/) embody a concept of luxury that is inherently linked to exclusivity of access, where quality prevails over excess. Not just great places to stay, they offer compelling reasons to visit far-flung regions via diverse experiences that are imbued with a unique sense of ‘privilege of place’.  All the lodges are committed to minimising their carbon footprint and the actions associated with this are embedded in the ‘mandatories’ of business operations. For many of the lodges, their location in remote areas means that the logistics of managing energy, waste, water and other measures of environmental impact can be extremely challenging.  Some of these ‘mandatories’ include harvesting and recycling rainwater; installing green energy solutions; sustainable greywater solutions; eliminating single-use plastics and other sources of waste; composting and recycling; and sharing information to educate guests and staff on what they are doing.  ‘Source local’ is a mantra for all the Lodges. The chefs, managers, guides and teams choose to work with like-minded businesses that benefit the community around them, and espouse organic, regenerative and sustainable practices.  Several of the lodges have been measuring and reporting their environmental footprint since day one of their operation. Some are more recently engaging in this process. However for all of them, continuous measurable progress is an ongoing focus area key as they work to adapt, replace, reduce and minimise use of any item with potential for negative impact on the environment they operate in and align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and longer-term carbon reduction targets. |
| Lodges on the Path to  Carbon Neutral | [Spicers Peak Lodge](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/spicerspeak/) has developed an Environmental Sustainability Master Plan which aligns its operational goals with the UN SDGs. The company as a whole has committed to achieving zero net emissions from energy by 2030; no single-use plastics and zero waste to landfill by 2025, as well as reducing potable water usage by 50 per cent by 2025.  ‘Sustainable systems’ will form the basis of the ESG, with green policies embedded in operations carried out like ‘automatic habits’. Further, Spicers hopes to create ‘raving fan environmentalists’ among guests, staff and partners.  In August, 2022, the G’day Group – which operates [El Questro Homestead](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/elquestrohomestead/) - launched its ESG strategy, which included a commitment to reducing its carbon emissions by 40 per cent by 2030 on a path to becoming a carbon neutral business by 2050.  This heralded the historic Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) reached in November, 2022, between the Wilinggin Aboriginal Corporation (WAC) and the Western Australian Government, that included a 99-year operational lease for G’Day Group.  The terms of the agreement will assist with the implementation of the ESG strategy in terms of improving water, waste and land management practices. Purchasing carbon credits from the WAC will enable the property to operate with net zero emissions whiling supporting the land protection and carbon drawdown activities of the WAC. |
| Bamurru Sits Lightly  on the Plains | [Bamurru Plains](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/bamurru/) is sited at the edge of the ecologically sensitive wetlands of the Mary River floodplain, three hours’ drive from Darwin. Ten luxuriously simple wilderness bungalows are raised off the ground, constructed from native spotted gum timber, and make use – with a nod to the traditional outback building material – of recycled corrugated iron.  Their most striking feature, though, is the floor to ceiling mesh screens that stand in for ‘walls’ on three sides. They allow guests to feel immersed in the sights and sounds of the surrounding bush and breezes to circulate, negating the need for air conditioning. No trees were removed during construction, so native vegetation provides shade and privacy screening throughout the camp.  Around 240 solar panels supply all hot water and 75 per cent of power for the lodge, significantly reducing the need for fuel-generated power and the noise impact of generators on wildlife. Location also dictate that waste is minimised: plastic water bottles and other single-use plastics are banned from the property. Glass and other recyclables are transported to Darwin for processing.  Sustainability-focused initiatives are embedded in so many of the details: wind-up guest torches; chemical-free bathroom amenities and locally sourced menu highlights like the barramundi and mud crabs that are sustainably caught on the property. Bed and bathroom linen is natural-coloured organic cotton that requires no bleach and can be laundered and line-dried on site, eliminating the need for chemicals and minimising power use. |
| Where Wildlife and  Cattle Co-exist | [Spicers Peak Lodge](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/spicerspeak/) is situated on a 2 000-hectare property which demonstrates how cattle grazing, wildlife and tourism can co-exist and thrive sustainably. The underlying principle is respect for the land: the soil, habitat and wildlife. The mission: to preserve Australia’s land and wildlife for future generations.  While the majority of pastoral leases are cleared for grazing or cropping, the managers and staff of Spicers Peak have undertaken comprehensive rehabilitation and conservation programs, including planting 20 000 trees in 2021, which provide habitat for wildlife, shade for cattle and sequester carbon, reducing the property’s overall carbon footprint.  Cattle are allowed to roam through the mixed habitat of woodland and grassland and pro-active management of erosion (especially around creek lines); fencing, weeding and rotational grazing ensure that wildlife can thrive. The property is home to multiple species of kangaroo and wallaby, koalas and platypus, as well as an abundance of birds, marsupials and other fauna.  Restoring and conserving the natural environment and increasing wildlife habitat – while farming lower stock numbers – helps ensure the long-term health and viability of the land and business, and attracts lodge guests who relish the natural beauty and opportunities to learn about the environment and how to protect it. |
|  | |
| 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. In line with the SDGs, the Luxury Lodges of Australia are committed to reducing their carbon footprint by implementing sustainable practices, such as using renewable energy sources, reducing waste and water usage, and supporting local conservation projects, to minimise their impact on the environment and contribute to a more sustainable future. | |