

PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN PORT STEPHENS

This is a guiding/directional template for use in assessing the sustainability of any business that might affect tourism in this region either adversely or positively and included in the Port Stephens Destination Management Plan re: Destination NSW. This document is the property Port Stephens Tourism Limited.

SUMMARY

The health of the tourism industry in Port Stephens depends largely on the health of our natural capital (environment) within which tourism operates and on integration with the principles and criteria of ecologically sustainable development.

It follows that any activity – whether by tourism or other industry - that has an adverse impact on this capital is a negative for the tourism industry.

Tourism, if it is to have a long-term future, has thus a vested interest in conserving our natural capital, and elevating ecological awareness with policies and advocacy that promote sustainability, including sustainable economic development, through the following objectives:

OBJECTIVES – for advocacy and promotion

- ❖ As a general principle, an activity should support tourism and economic activities that celebrate our natural heritage and environmental assets, i.e. that have minimal impact on the ecology, peace and serenity of these assets and on our host communities.
- ❖ Adoption of and familiarity with the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD) and the ‘quadruple bottom line’ of environmental, economic, social and cultural (including ethical governance) responsibilities, in the development of tourism products and services.
- ❖ Investigate and adopt world’s best practice for operators and staff in vastly improved and participatory methodologies for ecotourism and an improved system of accreditation.
- ❖ Develop Codes of Practice and/or Conduct to guide member companies and operators in effective self-regulation.
- ❖ Support vastly improved standards for waste management, recycling, carbon reduction and waterways protection including in the greater use of sewerage pump-out facilities for vessels.
- ❖ A custodial role for Port Stephens Tourism – including co-operation with organisations such as the PS/ML Estuary Management Committee, Government Agencies, Marine Parks Authority, and EcoNetwork.
- ❖ Promotion of the conservation components of the Marine Park including passive tourist activity within marine sanctuaries.

CLIMATIC FACTORS & TOURISM

- ❖ Attention to the UNO’s- IPCC reports on climate change and impacts on tourism including rising temperatures, sea-levels, increasing eastern sea-board summer rainfalls, and more frequent climatic storm events.
- ❖ Familiarity with climate impacts for adaptive and remedial measures and what these positive proposals could mean for tourism and tourist precincts generally.
- ❖ Develop proactive adaptation, remedial policies and guidelines towards the promotion and achievement of carbon reduction / neutrality and a sustainable world’s best practice tourism industry for Port Stephens.