



The Ridge, Gloucester Luxury Eco Holiday Accommodation

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THE RIDGE GLOUCESTER – Sustainability & Climate Action Plan (2026–2027)

Date: March 2026

Review Date: March 2027 (Annually)

1. Executive Summary & Vision

The Ridge Gloucester is small scale, short term holiday / eco-tourism accommodation business, operating completely off-grid with solar electricity, battery storage, and rainwater harvesting. This Plan combines our *Environmental Management Plan (2024)* with the financial and operational goals of our *Business Plan (2026)*.

Our vision is to prove that unique, high standard accommodation can be enhancing biodiversity, achieving low emissions, and building climate resilience, while delivering a 5-star guest experience.

2. Climate Resilience & Adaptation Plan

Located in a bushfire (Buccan Buccan range) and flood-prone (Gloucester and Barrington Rivers) region, climate adaptation is critical for business continuity.

Risk Assessment: Extreme heat, bushfire, and heavy rainfall restricting access to Thunderbolts Way.

Action Strategy:

- **Water Security:** 110,000L (House) + 10,000L (per Cabin) rainwater storage. The new "water trucking via firefighter pump" protocol ensures drought resilience.
- **Bushfire Preparedness:** Update the Bushfire Plan bi-annually. Maintain "Asset Protection Zones" (APZs) around all cabins. Liaise with Rural Fire Service (RFS) for hazard reduction burns.
- **Passive Cooling:** Encourage guests to utilise the passive solar design of the House and Eco-Cabins and using existing window design to maximize breeze flow, reducing reliance on mechanical cooling during heatwaves.

3. Emissions Reduction & Energy Transition

Our primary emissions sources are LPG gas for heating/hot water, vehicle fuel for maintenance, and embodied carbon in future construction (Eco-Cabin #3).

Target: Reduce Emissions by FY2027-28.

Action	Current Status (2026)	Target (2027)	KPIs & Measurement
Energy Generation	Stand-alone solar with battery storage (Achieved)	Maintain 100% off-grid capability.	<5% generator runtime (FY23-24 baseline: <10% time).
Fossil Fuel Reduction	LPG used for instantaneous hot water and fire pit backup.	Install Heat Pump hot water system in Eco-Cabin #3; consider retrofit Cabins #1 and #2 by 2027.	Reduce LPG consumption by 40% (Baseline FY25-26).
Transport	Guest and maintenance vehicles use unsealed roads.	Advise & encourage guests with EVs to utilise Public Charger in Gloucester.	Feedback from guests with EVs on charging sessions; reduction in guest fuel queries.
Construction (Cabin #3)	Budgeted \$250k (15% contingency).	Prioritise low-carbon materials (recycled timbers, low VOC paints).	Aim to have 10-15% lower embodied carbon than Cabin #2.

4. Circular Economy & Waste Management

We aim to minimize landfill contribution by leveraging local supply chains.

The "Gloucester Loop" Initiative:

- **Procurement:** Adhere to a *Green Supplier Policy*. Prioritise local contractors and suppliers to reduce transport and services emissions.
- **Water Conservation:** Low-flow fixtures and guest education are standard. We have achieved "No Imported Water" status as of 2020.
- **Waste Streams:** Encourage guests to segregate recyclables and general waste. Ensure housekeeping and maintenance contractors adhere to segregation protocols.

5. Biodiversity & Guest Engagement

The 40-hectare property is adjacent to The Bucketts, home to The Ridge House and the Coucal and Bellbird Eco-Cabins.

Actions:

- **Regeneration:** No clearing of mature trees for Cabin #3 development. Use existing cleared/disturbed areas.
- **Guest Experience:** Leverage the "Direct private access to Buccan Buccan Walk".
 - *Initiative:* Introduce a Guests "Sightings" record book for wildlife/bird sightings using a simple checklist.

- **Dark Sky Preservation:** Outdoor lighting will be downward-directed to preserve the "starlite evenings".

6. Governance & Continuous Improvement

- **Reporting:** Create an internal Sustainability Dashboard tracking: Solar generation (kWh), LPG usage (Litres), and Water levels.
- **Staff Training:** Ensure all contractors are trained in hazard identification and environmental incident response.
- **Review:** This plan will be reviewed annually.

Prepared By: Dan Buckley, Principal

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