

Northern Rivers Urban Design Awards -Public Domain Entry
The Byron at Byron Resort and Spa



The Byron at Byron Resort and Day Spa is a project jointly owned by Gerry Harvey and Harvey Norman.

Brief Outline

The design of the Byron at Byron Resort and Spa was conceived with sustainable development principles at its core, with those principles incorporated into the siting, the fabric, the performance, and the ongoing management of the buildings and the environment they inhabit. Energy costs have been minimised by design, while the impact upon the natural environment was minimised during the construction of the resort. As a result the environment – in which the resort now sits – has been significantly improved with species such as the Mitchell's Rainforest Snail returning.

Sustainability Achievements:

- The resort has a self-contained, on-site sewage treatment plant treating all generated waste. The plant produces 18.3 million litres per year – 7.8 million litres more than the resorts requirements. Surplus water treated to grade A is pumped to the golf course where it irrigates the greens
- The quantity of water drawn from Councils water supply has been significantly reduced
- Nutrients in the reclaimed water in landscaped areas are utilised to contribute to local fauna biodiversity
- Bushland principles were incorporated to restore and regenerate the flood plain rainforest
- Listed as an Endangered Ecological Community under NSW legislation, this rainforest supports the endangered Mitchell's Rainforest Snail Thersites Mitchellae. Under these conditions, the Mitchell's Rainforest Snails are flourishing
- Rainwater is harvested from roofs, collected in tanks, filtered, and pressurised to provide water for irrigation and toilet flushing
- There is no impact on above ground water flow during flood periods, as the water collection tanks within the flood plain area are elevated. Stormwater runoff is channelled to the tanks which act as storm water detention tanks
- Soil moisture sensors are situated in over eight sites on the resort to prevent excessive irrigation. These also provide effective monitoring of plant water requirements
- Access through the rainforest is restricted to allow the rainforest to regenerate. The entire complex is linked by kilometres of timber boardwalks through and around the rainforest suspended above the forest floor. This boardwalk was constructed using a custom made piling rig, which minimised any damage to local plant communities

THE CONTEXT AND THE RESOURCES OF THE PROPONENT:

- The resort's approval and construction came about due to a cooperative effort between Harvey Norman and the Byron Shire Council
- The Byron Community has long been in favour of sustainable development with strong activism against commercial development common within the region
- There is a contribution to the community in sustaining native habitats and of inherent value to future generations in drought cycles. These workable systems will set a precedent for development in Australia
- The resort demonstrates that it can be good business to enhance a part of the natural environment to attract visitors. By doing this a part of the natural environment is preserved and enhanced for future generations to enjoy without relying upon grants from the Government



Roles of those involved:

Consultant	Function
Haysom Architects	Architect, Interior Designers
Aspect North	Civil, Geotech, Wastewater, Environmental, Surveyor and Planner
Mosquito Consulting Services Pty Ltd	Mosquito Control
Maunsells	Environmental Engineers
Cardno MBK	Structural Engineers
Stevens Landscape	Landscape Architects
Rothwell Pumps	Irrigation Consultant
Chris Power	Environmental Planning
Town Planner	Planning Initiatives

