

# Conservation dividend case study

## Quarantine Station, New South Wales



The Quarantine Station (Q Station) is leased to a private operator and remains part of the Sydney Harbour National Park. Q Station is a 30 hectare site that contains 65 buildings, a wharf, over 1000 stone inscriptions and paintings, a moveable heritage collection, and bushland that is home to several threatened species.

The operation includes a mix of retreat-style heritage accommodation, a harbour-front restaurant, conference and function facilities, a visitor centre, residential education, and storytelling tours.

### Compatible with natural and cultural values

To ensure visitors do not enter penguin habitat fences are located at either end of Quarantine Beach. The outdoor eating area also has a fence to screen sound and encroaching light from the surrounding area.

Seagrass in the vicinity of Quarantine Beach is mapped to determine seasonal distribution and provide a benchmark for monitoring. The ferry uses a set route in and out of Quarantine Wharf that avoids the main seagrass area. Triggers have been established for managing unacceptable impacts on little penguin and long-nosed bandicoot populations and are regularly monitored.

### Sustainable design and operation of facilities

Water tanks have been installed to reuse rainwater and facilitate appropriate use of grey water for toilet flushing and irrigation. An Outdoor Visitor Infrastructure Plan has been developed which outlines strategies to minimise

the impacts of light spill into the wider environment. Initiatives include downward pointing lights, low level mounting and low intensity bulbs.

Operations are managed under a sustainability policy that goes above and beyond the conditions of lease approval. Focus areas of the sustainability policy include:

- the key elements of the natural environment are maintained
- operational consumption of resources is efficient
- cultural heritage is maintained in good condition
- visitation patterns reflect forecasts
- visitor expectations are met
- visitors recognise key site values and protocols.

### Education and advocacy

Q Station offers a diverse range of educational programs created to engage and challenge local school students to learn from history so that they can make informed decisions in the present and for the future. Community days offer people the opportunity to visit the site and learn more about how it is being conserved, adapted, used and monitored. An ongoing Community Committee, running for the life of the lease, meets regularly.

### Conservation Dividend

20% of revenue from visitation at Q Station is reinvested by the private operator into the long-term conservation of the Site. Environmental offsets for lost habitat have been established.

Volunteers undertake weeding and Q Station operates a targeted feral species control program for foxes, dogs, cats, rats and rabbits.