



WILDWOOD ECO RETREAT

# Sustainability & Emissions Reduction Plan

444 Wildwood Road, Quindalup WA 6281 | [wildwoodecoretreat.com](http://wildwoodecoretreat.com)

Susy & Karl O'Hare | Published July 2026 | Annual review

# Our Commitment

Wildwood Eco Retreat was not built on sustainability as a strategy — it was built on it as a belief. When Susy and Karl O'Hare purchased 54 acres of former plantation land in Quindalup in 2021, they made a commitment that would shape every decision: work with the landscape, retain the forest, eliminate chemical inputs and create a tourism experience that enhances rather than diminishes the natural environment.

Every decision at Wildwood is guided by one question: does this benefit the land, the wildlife, the community and the guest experience? The answer must be yes.

This document outlines our current sustainability practices, our emissions reduction actions, and our ongoing commitments — presented transparently for our guests, partners and the broader community.

# Our Baseline — Where We Started

Wildwood opened on 21 June 2025 on land with no mains power connection, no chemical history since 2021, and a commitment to 100% off-grid operation from day one. Our baseline emissions from the property are significantly lower than a comparable grid-connected accommodation business as a result of the following founding decisions:

- **No mains grid connection:** Zero grid electricity emissions since opening — ever.
- **No chemical inputs:** Zero herbicides, pesticides or fertilisers used on 21.8 hectares since 2021.
- **Walk-in only policy:** Zero guest vehicle movements on the property since opening.
- **UV-only water treatment:** No chlorine or chemical water treatment — bore/aquifer and rainwater only.
- **Closed-loop organic waste:** Guests can feed food scraps to the resident chickens, and all family food waste is diverted the same way — keeping organic waste out of landfill.

# Current Sustainability Actions — Energy & Emissions

- When the retreat opened in June 2025, it was powered by a 28.62kW off-grid solar system — zero grid electricity
- During 2026, the system was expanded to support converting the Wildwood Shed House into guest accommodation, with an additional 2.375kW solar array and three lithium batteries installed, bringing total solar generation capacity to approximately 31kW
- Main array: 21.6kW, 48 panels, dual east/north orientation (Green Wave Solar, EC15379)
- Shed House: 7.02kW with 20kWh Australian-made LiFePO4 battery storage
- Passive bioclimatic design throughout — concrete thermal mass, louvre ventilation, cross-ventilation, eaves and sail shading reduce energy demand before technology is applied
- Wood-burning fires fuelled exclusively by fallen trees from the property — zero purchased firewood
- Air conditioning restricted to solar generation hours — guests educated on energy conservation
- Walk-in only arrival — zero vehicle emissions on the property
- During a regional power outage affecting Dunsborough, Wildwood continued operating without interruption

# Current Sustainability Actions — Water Management

- 350,000L combined water storage — 200,000L rainwater + 150,000L bore/aquifer water
- Davey UV151 ultraviolet filtration — zero chlorine, zero chemical water treatment
- Grundfos CMBE-5-62 pump system — energy-efficient water delivery
- Coerco SEP-4000 septic system (WA Plumbing PL#8398) — zero chemical wastewater treatment
- Zero chemical discharge to soil or groundwater — confirmed across all 21.8 hectares

# Current Sustainability Actions — Land & Habitat

- Zero herbicides, pesticides or fertilisers used since 2021 — all 21.8 hectares
- 40 acres of plantation stumps mulched rather than burned — organic matter returned to soil
- 14 acres of plantation forest permanently retained — will never be cleared or developed
- 504-acre continuous unfenced wildlife corridor — connecting to neighbouring 450-acre property
- Both Baudin's and Carnaby's Black Cockatoo active breeding zones confirmed (Landcare SJ)
- Dr Simon Cherriman (ornithologist, BirdLife Australia) conducted formal species survey June 2026 — 30 species documented
- Carnaby's Cockatoo water trough installed — recycled timber, Yanchep National Park design
- Handmade nest box and wildlife camera donated by Dr Cherriman for installation
- Active conservation partnerships: NCMRR, Landcare SJ, BirdLife Australia
- NCMRR membership established — conservation story shared with 9,000+ community members

# Current Sustainability Actions — Waste & Circular Economy

- 15 resident chickens divert organic food waste from landfill — guests can feed scraps directly, and all family food waste goes to the chickens too.
- All guest pathways surfaced with on-site mulch — zero imported materials
- 100% biodegradable guest slippers — natural flax, linen and cork, zero plastic
- Homemade eucalyptus oil cleaning products — zero chemical discharge
- Certified organic guest toiletries (Botanik Yallingup, locally grown olive oil base) and local Margaret River teas — now provided in guest experience boxes.
- Dual recycling and general waste separation at every accommodation — Veolia fortnightly collection
- Fallen trees used as firewood — zero waste, zero food miles

# Current Sustainability Actions — Guest Education & Conservation

- Signed copy of Hollowed Out by Dr Simon Cherriman in every accommodation — 1,000+ guests educated
- Binoculars and illustrated Wildlife Guest Checklist in every tent
- Interpretation signs along all property pathways — conservation story, solar, water, wildlife
- QR code conservation guide linked from Carnaby's Cockatoo trough sign
- Lara AI delivers daily conservation SMS messages to all guests during their stay
- EcoStar Accredited — independently verified ecotourism credentials

# Our Next Steps — Committed Actions

1

## **Native border planting program**

Local landscape architect Sean has designed a native Banksia, Grevillea and Hakea border planting along the boundary with neighbouring conservation land. Funding being explored through NCMRR. Planting to commence during 2026-27.

2

## **Formal emissions assessment**

Wildwood is completing a Business Climate Action Program (BCAP) assessment through Carbonhalo — generating a formal emissions reduction plan, verified badge and public climate dashboard.

3

## **Nest box and wildlife camera installation**

Dr Simon Cherriman's donated handmade nest box and Arlo 4G wildlife camera to be installed December 2026 in exchange for a return complimentary stay.

4

## **Stage 2 — Wildwood Hous passive solar dwelling**

A 264sqm passive solar dwelling designed by architect Ingrid Spelman (Dunsborough Design) is planned for the 14-acre plantation forest. Designed to 7-star NatHERS rating. In-principle bank approval received June 2026.

5

## **Formal biodiversity assessment**

NCMRR has offered a formal Biodiversity Assessment for the property. To be completed during 2026-27 to establish a verified baseline for ongoing monitoring.

6

## **Accessible tourism improvements**

Grab rails, accessible bathroom upgrades and a formal QTF Accessibility Assessment are being completed to ensure Wildwood's Shed House meets AS 1428.1 standards.

# Accreditations & Independent Verification

<b>Accreditation / Partnership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Detail</b>
EcoStar Accreditation	Accredited – TERC Stage 3/3	Ecotourism Australia – highest eco-tourism standard
Quality Tourism Accreditation	Accredited	Quality Tourism Framework
Sustainable Tourism Accreditation	Accredited	Quality Tourism Framework
NCMRR Business Partnership	Active 2026	Nature Conservation Margaret River Region
Landcare SJ Partnership	Active 2026	Black Cockatoo breeding zone confirmation
BirdLife Australia	Active 2026	Conservation science partnership
ATIC Accessibility Assessment	Program Completed	Australian Tourism Industry Council

# How We Measure Our Impact

98.6%

ReviewPro Global Review Index  
Guests consistently rate sustainability as a positive.

30

Documented Species  
Documented by Dr Simon Cherriman, June 2026  
(conservation verification).

300+

Five-Star Reviews  
Zero Google reviews below five stars.

1,000+

Guests Educated  
During first year of operation.

100%

Organic Food Waste Diverted  
From landfill via chicken system.

Zero

Grid Electricity  
And zero vehicle emissions on property.

Zero

Chemical Inputs  
Confirmed across all 21.8 hectares since 2021.

504

Unfenced Wildlife Corridor  
Both Black Cockatoo breeding zones active.

"Environmental responsibility isn't something we add to Wildwood. It is the foundation the business was built upon. Every decision begins with one question: How can we leave this place better than we found it?"

— Susy & Karl O'Hare, Owners, Wildwood Eco Retreat

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