



Sustainability Plan

2026–2029

Sustainability plan that demonstrates how PATs protects the environment, supports the local community.

Vision

Pat's Sapphire Central is committed to creating memorable tourism experiences while protecting the natural beauty, heritage and community of Queensland's Sapphire Gemfields. As a family-owned regional tourism business, we recognise our responsibility to minimise our environmental impact, support our local economy and preserve the unique landscape that attracts visitors from across Australia and around the world.

Sustainability is an ongoing journey. This plan outlines what we have already achieved, the initiatives currently in place and the actions we will continue to implement over the next three years as we work towards reducing our environmental footprint and contributing positively to our community.

Environmental Sustainability

Energy Efficiency

Progress to Date

- Installed LED lighting throughout the business.
- Selected energy-efficient appliances where practical.
- Implemented procedures to switch off non-essential equipment after trading hours.

Current Actions

- Monitor electricity consumption.
- Maintain energy-efficient equipment.
- Encourage staff to identify opportunities to reduce energy use.

Future Commitments

- Investigate additional solar energy opportunities.
- Replace ageing equipment with higher-efficiency alternatives.
- Continue reducing overall electricity consumption.

Success Measures

- Reduce electricity use by 10% by 2029.
- Review energy usage annually.

Water Conservation

Progress to Date

- Water-efficient fixtures installed where practical.
- Regular maintenance to minimise leaks.

Current Actions

- Monitor water usage.
- Encourage responsible water use by staff and visitors.
- Maintain drought-tolerant gardens.

Future Commitments

- Continue identifying opportunities to improve water efficiency.
- Expand landscaping using hardy native species.

Success Measures

- Reduce water consumption per visitor.
- Annual review of water usage.

Water Conservation

Progress to Date

- Recycling systems established for cardboard, cans, bottles and plastics.
- Reduced unnecessary single-use products where practical.

Current Actions

- Separate recyclable materials.
- Encourage reusable drink bottles and sustainable purchasing.

Future Commitments

- Continue reducing waste sent to landfill.
- Increase recycling rates across all operations.

Success Measures

- Reduce landfill waste by 20% by 2029.

Organic Waste Management

Progress to Date

- Planned implementation of an on-site worm farm.

Current Actions

- Identify suitable organic waste streams from the café.
- Educate staff on separating compostable materials.

Future Commitments

- Install and maintain a worm farm.
- Divert suitable food waste from landfill.
- Use worm castings and liquid fertiliser in gardens.
- Educate visitors on composting and circular waste practices.

Success Measures

- Divert at least 75% of suitable café food waste from landfill.
- Produce compost for use throughout the property.

Responsible Fossicking & Land Stewardship

Progress to Date

- Responsible fossicking practices incorporated into visitor experiences.
- Ongoing rehabilitation of fossicking areas after use.

Current Actions

- Educate visitors before fossicking.
- Encourage filling in holes and respecting native vegetation.
- Operate within approved fossicking areas.

Future Commitments

- Continue improving visitor education.
- Expand environmental interpretation signage.
- Further enhance rehabilitation of disturbed areas.

Success Measures

- Maintain responsible land management practices.
- Achieve high visitor satisfaction regarding environmental stewardship.

Community Sustainability

Progress to Date

- Employed local staff.
- Supported local suppliers.
- Promoted neighbouring tourism businesses.
- Participated in regional tourism initiatives.

Current Actions

We will:

- Employ local staff wherever possible.
- Purchase goods and services from local suppliers.
- Recommend local attractions, accommodation and experiences.
- Collaborate with regional tourism organisations.
- Participate in local events and community initiatives.

Future Commitments

- Increase partnerships with local businesses.
- Expand support for community events.
- Increase local purchasing where practical.

Success Measures

- Increase local supplier spending each year.
- Maintain strong relationships with regional tourism partners.

Cultural Heritage

Progress to Date

- Shared the history of sapphire mining with visitors.
- Preserved historical displays and mining artefacts.

Current Actions

We will:

- Celebrate the history of the Sapphire Gemfields.
- Share local stories through tours and interpretation.
- Maintain heritage displays.

Future Commitments

- Continue developing heritage interpretation.
- Introduce additional educational content for visitors.

Success Measures

- Increase visitor engagement with heritage experiences.
- Maintain historical displays to a high standard.

Economic Sustainability

Progress to Date

- Continued investment in tourism marketing.
- Expanded visitor experiences.
- Strengthened online presence and visitor reviews.

Current Actions

We will:

- Invest in regional and digital marketing.
- Improve visitor facilities.
- Encourage repeat visitation.
- Diversify revenue through café, retail and tourism experiences.

Future Commitments

- Continue investing in visitor experiences.
- Explore new tourism products.
- Strengthen regional partnerships.

Success Measures

- Increase visitor numbers annually.
- Improve repeat visitation.
- Maintain strong online review ratings

Staff & Visitor Education

Current Actions

We provide ongoing staff training in:

- Sustainable work practices
- Eco awareness
- Conservation and land management basics
- Low-impact fossicking
- Land rehabilitation
- Waterwise operations
- Renewable energy awareness
- Circular kitchen practices

Visitors are encouraged to participate in responsible tourism through education before and during their experience.

Monitoring & Reporting

Progress against this Sustainability Plan will be reviewed annually using:

- Electricity consumption records
- Water usage records
- Waste and recycling volumes
- Organic waste diverted through the worm farm
- Google Reviews and visitor feedback
- Staff sustainability training records
- Local supplier expenditure
- Community partnerships and participation
- Website and visitor analytics

The Sustainability Plan will be updated each year to reflect achievements, identify new opportunities and set measurable goals for continuous improvement.

Our Commitment

At Pat's Sapphire Central, sustainability is more than a business practice—it is a commitment to protecting the Sapphire Gemfields for future generations. By continually improving our environmental performance, supporting our local community, preserving our heritage and educating visitors, we aim to create authentic experiences that leave a positive and lasting impact.

We believe every visitor plays a part in protecting this remarkable region, and through collaboration, innovation and responsible tourism, we will continue building a sustainable future for Pat's Sapphire Central, our community and the unique landscapes that make the Sapphire Gemfields one of Queensland's most treasured destinations.