



NOVOTEL BAROSSA VALLEY RESORT FIRST HOTEL IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA TO ACHIEVE GREEN GLOBE ACCREDITATION

Can you get any greener in Australia's 'Green State'

Novotel Barossa Valley Resort's commitment to the environment has been rewarded with an official certification from Green Globe – the renowned international travel and tourism benchmarking and certification programme – making it the first for a hotel in South Australia.

In the two year Green Globe certification process, Novotel Barossa Valley Resort has successfully implemented plans to reduce water consumption, reporting a 52% reduction in usage since 2006 and for the period between 2006 – 2008 gas has reduced 16.17% POR and electricity 4.07% for the period between 2006 –2007.

The impressive results to date will improve further once the water saving shower heads, energy efficient lighting and specially sourced energy efficient mini-bar fridges – all installed during the Resort's multi-million dollar refurbishment completed in November 2008 – start to impact on future results.

The Green Globe accolade has even more merit; given the resort has over 20 acres of land with a 140 room hotel, the largest conference venue facilities in the Barossa and an adjoining 50 acre golf course to service. Yet through careful planning and implementation of water saving initiatives, water consumption levels have dropped from 39,277,000 Litres (39,277KiloLitres) in 2006 to 18,697,000 Litres (18,697 Kilolitres) in 2008. This represents annual water savings of 10,290 Litres.

"We have our own waste water recycling program in operation through an on site waste processing plant which was established in 1999," says General Manager, James Murphy.

"But our Chief Engineer, Andrew McCarthy, and his team are continually developing ways to operate in an environmentally friendly manner."

These include covering the hotel's heated pool at night to maintain its core temperature, resulting in decreased evaporation and a reduction in the gas required for heating; re-mulching of garden beds, which allows for less watering as more moisture is retained in the garden; extensive use of underground drippers; the use of wetting agents in gardens; hand watering and planting of drought tolerant plants.

At the adjacent Tanunda Pines Golf Club, treated grey water is used for the driving range and holding dam levels are managed to ensure water is available for irrigation and not wasted.

As the region's largest accommodation provider, the Novotel features 140 apartments comprising 116 studio and 24 two bedroom apartments. Every apartment has a kitchenette and private balcony with panoramic views across the Barossa Valley. The resort opened its doors on a multi-million dollar refurbishment earlier this year.

About Green Globe

The Green Globe programme is managed by Brisbane based EC3 Global, the commercialisation and adaptation division of the **Sustainable Tourism Co-Operative Research Centre**, whose research programme is overseen by 17 of Australia's leading universities.

Green Globe is the only international Benchmarking and Certification programme based on Agenda 21 principles. It provides a framework for environmental and social performance improvement through independent third party verification.

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