



Tamborine Rainforest Skywalk

Our client sought to establish an eco-adventure facility in a rainforest gorge at Mt Tamborine. The project comprised an elevated walking track and cantilever bridge through the rainforest canopy and over Cedar Creek, walking tracks, and an associated eco-gallery.

CLIENT

BIRDWINGS RAINFOREST
ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

LOCATION

MOUNT TAMBORINE, QLD

Statutory Context

The site was almost wholly vegetated, and the setting established clear potential for threatened species and other high ecological values. The setting also influenced the regulatory response to the project, with detailed information sought by the State and Gold Coast City Council. We were required to consider the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*; *Vegetation Management Act 1999*; and Gold Coast Planning Scheme.

Challenges and Solutions

Refining the development footprint was an iterative process requiring a balancing of interests. Our ecological surveys clearly identified the occurrence of threatened species and other important values within the general development footprint. Approvals could have been simply obtained by removing development from these sensitive areas. However, we were aware that moving the walkway (and particularly the skywalk) would diminish the “rainforest experience” sought by our client. We worked with the project engineer to refine the development footprint in a way that retained the desired rainforest experience, while conserving important ecological values.

Bushfire management was a particularly challenging negotiation. The client’s desire for a minimal impact development, nestled in the bushland, was at odds with the regulator’s requirement for wide, clear bushfire buffers. We undertook detailed bushfire assessment to identify the site-specific threat, and to optimise positioning of the Eco Gallery. We addressed residual threats through a bushfire management strategy.

Outcome

The project received all necessary approvals and is now constructed and operational, delivering a unique rainforest experience for its visitors.



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