

Tira Ora i te Taiao Nei

“Our Responsible Tourism Statement”

Welcome to Tira Ora Estate. We hope you enjoy your experience with us.

We believe in protecting the beautiful environment of Pelorus Sound and want to ensure that your children or grandchildren can visit and enjoy it too. To this end, we've developed an environmental plan and welcome your support for this initiative.

Most of our customers want to help, so we invite you to join with us by enjoying our hospitality and understanding our environmental policy.

Energy

Tira Ora Estate is reducing its demand on non-renewable energy:

- We generate our own electricity using a sustainable, non-polluting hydro plant and solar panels.
- We offer a towel and linen change agreement which ensures you're helping the environment by reducing energy, water and chemical use.
- We buy local produce where possible to reduce transport emissions.
- We regularly upgrade appliances to energy-efficient models.
- Low-energy light bulbs are installed in all of our premises.
- Daylight sensors are installed on exterior lighting.
- We schedule shared water taxi trips where possible.

Waste

Tira Ora Estate is reducing its waste by:

- Giving you the opportunity to recycle your rubbish.
- Reducing the amount of waste going to landfill by separating it for recycling.
- Reducing packaging to a minimum by not using single-packaged portions, using dispensers for high-quality cleaners, buying quality products in bulk, replacing disposable items with reusable ones.
- Not printing unnecessary emails and printing on the reverse of unwanted pages.
- Buying from producers who offer environmentally-friendly packaging options in returnable containers where possible.
- We reduce waste by not purchasing products with excessive packaging.

Water

Tira Ora Estate draws its water from the large catchment at the head of Tira Ora Bay. We are conserving water by:

- Utilizing water exiting from the hydro plant for irrigation.
- Using only water-efficient washing machines/dishwashers.
- Using sawdust urinals and toilets.
- Recycling washing water for use on gardens.
- Regulating garden watering by use of sensible planting practice and trickle irrigation systems.

Pollution

Tira Ora Estate is reducing pollution of waterways/air/light by:

- Using only biodegradable or non-toxic cleaning products.
- Washing our vehicles on grass so cleaning products don't enter drains.
- Regularly tuning our vehicles to help reduce carbon emissions.
- Keeping exterior lighting to a minimum so as to not disturb wildlife and not annoy astronomers.
- Using only natural/low or non-allergenic toiletry products.
- Sourcing many materials from local producers.
- Using natural air-freshening products instead of chemical ones.
- Sending batteries and fluorescent bulbs for recycling/safe disposal.
- Estimating our carbon emissions and planting trees to offset where we can't reduce.
- Not running our vehicles whilst waiting for passengers.
- Adopting emission-reducing techniques – including energy-efficiency practices such as reducing vehicle use, maintaining vehicles regularly and buying locally.

Wise purchasing and Conservation

Tira Ora Estate participates in a wise purchasing program/is supporting wildlife conservation/regeneration of native/renewable forests by:

- Ensuring all printed material and products are sustainably sourced where possible.
- Contributing a significant proportion of our revenue to developing and running programs for youth at risk and their families: No Excuses Training and Family Building Centers.
- Planting trees and shrubs which are native to this area in order to encourage bird life and reduce the need for irrigation.
- Increasing the proportion of our furniture that is made from recycled or renewable sources.
- Supporting regeneration of native New Zealand forests/wildlife conservation by active pest control (opossums).
- Purchasing locally, which helps reduce carbon emissions from transport.
- Offering our guests the opportunity to learn about our local environment by alternative energy tours, nature walks, self-improvement lectures, etc.

Community

Tira Ora Estate understands that it is part of its local community and participates in it by:

- Sponsoring local children on school holiday camps and other initiatives.
- Buying locally produced quality products where possible.
- Offering career development to staff through industry training and other initiatives.
- Co-operating and interacting with our local community by offering a free excursion venue for church groups.
- Involving our staff in commitment to our environmental practices.