

AN ISLAND TRANSFORMATION

YOU ARE SITTING AT THE SOUTHERN TIP OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LISTED GREAT BARRIER REEF.

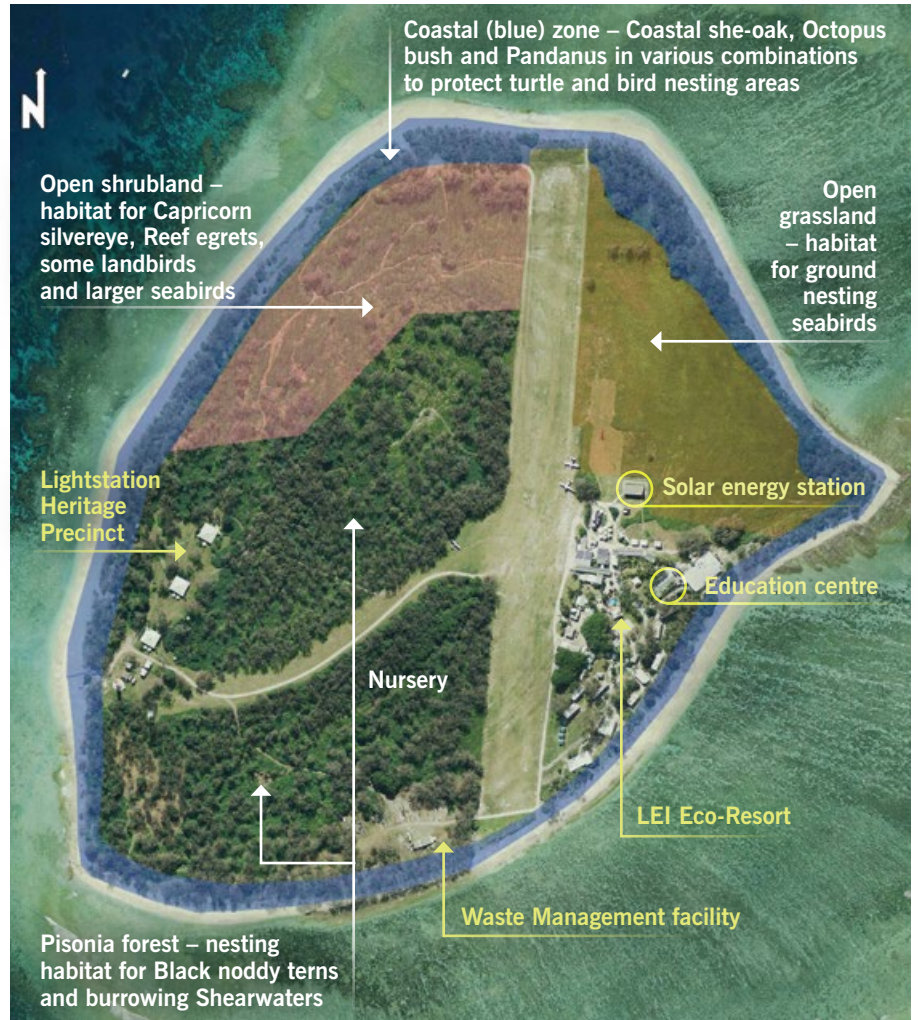
Situated within a highly protected Marine National Park 'Green/No Take Zone', Lady Elliot Island is a sanctuary for over 1,200 species of marine life, including whales, manta rays, turtles, dolphins and unspoilt coral reef. The Island also has the second highest diversity of breeding seabirds of any island on the Great Barrier Reef and is an important stop for migrating seabirds.

REEF ISLANDS INITIATIVE

Historically Lady Elliot Island was a degraded landscape following guano mining which removed all topsoil and vegetation, leaving only bare rock. Guano mining ceased in the late nineteenth century and past and present custodians have worked tirelessly to restore the Island back to its previous natural state.

In 2018, Lady Elliot Island was selected as the first 'climate change ark' to be established through the Reef Islands Initiative. This initiative brings the Resort, local businesses, Government, community and Traditional Owners together to fast-track the Island's restoration and protect marine life through a combination of on-ground and in-water action.

With the Great Barrier Reef under increasing pressure from local threats and global climate change, reef islands like Lady Elliot play an important role as habitat refuges, or 'arks', to the thousands of animals that call them home. The restoration of Lady Elliot Island will ensure a habitat refuge is available for seabirds, turtles and marine life in the face of a changing climate.



SEE OUR WORK IN ACTION

During your stay you'll have the chance to see this work in action:

- ◇ Stroll around the Island's 7.5 hectare revegetated area
- ◇ Visit the solar powered, drip irrigated nursery and see the propagation of native seedlings and plants
- ◇ Walk through the existing mature Pisonia forest next to the nursery, which is typical native vegetation of a coral cay
- ◇ Discover more about the Island at the Education Centre and find out how you can help the Great Barrier Reef
- ◇ Learn more about the Eco Resort's sustainability initiatives and join our *Behind the Scenes* tour

The Reef Islands Initiative is a AUD \$14 million, 10-year initiative of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, supported by funding from Lendlease, the Australian Government's Reef Trust, the Queensland Government and the Fitzgerald Family Foundation. Find out more at: barrierreef.org/reef-islands

THE REEF ISLANDS INITIATIVE IS SUPPORTING A KNOWLEDGE-DRIVEN ON-GROUND AND IN-WATER ACTION PROGRAM AT LADY ELLIOT ISLAND.



Island restoration

7.5



hectares revegetated – weeds cleared and native coral cay species planted

4,000



coral cay native trees, plants and grasses planted in revegetated areas

2,000m²

nursery with stocking capacity in excess of 6000 plants and grasses



Host to the only nursery on a Great Barrier Reef island for native coral cay species



125%

increase in turtle habitat at LEI's main nesting beach



Improved sustainability practices

100% renewable energy through the installation of 729 solar panels and 256 batteries¹



Resort food, cardboard and green waste composted to produce organic material for soil production



6,000

automated and solar powered irrigation drippers in-nursery, and in-field micro sprayer irrigation systems – significantly reducing water use



Research to support knowledge-based management

Completed initial species drift modelling to identify why LEI is likely to be a refuge for migrating marine species under predicted climate change scenarios



Conducted initial bird, manta ray and in-water biodiversity surveys



Identified ground water flows into the lagoon, allowing researchers to track how nutrients flow from land to the reef



Education and engagement

Development of volunteer program to assist with LEI restoration activities



1. Achieved in partnership with Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort and Queensland Government Rejuvenation Fund

