

Australian Conservation Resort Reaches First Milestone



Released on: June 19, 2008, 8:19 am

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Industry: [Entertainment](#)

Press Release Summary: Emirates Hotels & Resorts announces that its luxury Australian conservation resort, Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa, has reached its first milestone with the completion of the first of 40 villas, and the planting of the first 1,000 native trees on site

Press Release Body: **Emirates Hotels & Resorts' 4,000 acre Australian luxury conservation resort, Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa,** has reached its first milestone with the completion of the first of 40 villas, and the planting of the first 1,000 native trees on site.

Tim Clark, President [Emirates Airline](#), visited Australia recently to inspect the site; where he met with many of the 180 workers during his visit, most of whom live in the local area.

"The Wolgan Valley project will be one of the world's strongest combinations of high quality, luxury tourism with outstanding conservation values, and a highly sensitive design approach to environmental impact", Mr Clark said.

The major tree planting programme at the luxury [Australian resort](#) coincides also with the completion of the phase one removal of invasive, non-indigenous flora. Replacing noxious plants and weeds with indigenous plants will stabilise sensitive local river banks and erosion areas, and bolster the natural re-seeding of valuable plants that form a critical source of food, shelter and breeding locations for the wildlife on the reserve.

The project involves a comprehensive regeneration and conservation programme which will include, over time, the development of a feral-proof fence, the planting of over 10,000 native trees and the reintroduction of the native spotted-quoll, amongst other endangered and locally extinct native Australian animals.

Solar panels and rainfall water-capture tanks are also being installed as part of the environmental focus of the project. The resort will ultimately have over 100 solar

panels that will meet over 75% of all its hot water needs, significantly reducing the resort's energy consumption, and therefore its resources footprint.

"The project team is making great progress, and there is little doubt that this resort will follow in the footsteps of Emirates' other luxury conservation resort, the Dubai-based [Al Maha Desert Resort & Spa](#). These resorts are some of the world's leaders in sustainable development, conservation and responsible, luxury travel," Mr Clark said.

Emirates commenced its conservation-based tourism approach 12 years ago with the creation of the **Al Maha Desert Resort & Spa** that forms part of the **Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve (DDCR)**. The Reserve makes up 4.7% of Dubai's total land area, with wildlife and habitat research programmes actively supported by Emirates, having provided almost AED 10 million to the DDCR over the past five years.

Due to open in late 2009, the [Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa](#) will offer guests unparalleled luxury, as well as experiences of Australia's unique wilderness and wildlife, its aboriginal traditions and its heritage. Set within the Australian Great Dividing Range, and surrounded by three National Parks which make up one of the planet's largest proclaimed World Heritage Areas, this secluded resort will occupy just 2% of the 4,000 acres reserve; feature 40 free-standing villas and a world-class spa facility; and partner the best of locally-sourced food and wines with the superior services that Emirates is renowned for worldwide.

About

Client

Emirates Hotels & Resorts is **Emirates Airline's** premier hospitality management division, an ambitious concept, where unrivalled exclusivity in service and luxury is combined with unique and truly breathtaking locations.

Emirates Hotels & Resorts is developing a diverse range of properties around the world. City-based properties include **The Harbour Hotel & Residence** and **Green Lakes Serviced Apartments**, both located in Dubai. Conservation-based resorts include **Al Maha Desert Resort & Spa** (UAE), **Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa** (Australia) and **Cap Ternay Resort & Spa** (Seychelles).

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