

Skybury

Farming With Passion

Producing healthy and tasty coffee and red papaya



www.skybury.com.au



Nutritious Product

Papaya is a highly nutritious tropical fruit, which has a range of health benefits. Papaya also has the added bonus of being available 52 weeks a year, meaning it can become a staple element of a healthy dietary program.

Our primary goal is to produce tasty products with low chemical use. Our papaya are rich sources of antioxidants such as carotenes, vitamin C and flavonoids. In fact, Papaya has more vitamin C than an orange and more potassium than bananas.

Studies have shown these nutrients protect against heart disease, offer excellent immunity support as well as protection against muscular degeneration and rheumatoid arthritis.

90 Percent Organic Fertiliser/Nutrient Input

As part of our fertiliser program, we incorporate organic material into the land to improve our soil structure and nutrient absorption capacity. We re-use all organic waste produced on the farm, incorporating this into mulch and compost production. All these practices form part of our fertiliser program and not only improve our soil quality but also reduce the need for manufactured fertilisers.





Post-Harvest Treatment

We manage sanitation and farm routines to reduce poor and rough handling during picking and transport to the packing shed. Good handling systems for fruit from harvest to the packing facility form part of our ongoing training to improve the quality and consistency of our fruit. Having a focus on this allows us to reduce chemicals used, making our produce healthier for you.

Consistent Eating Quality

Constant monitoring of plant nutrient levels and soil health allows us to provide the right amount of nutrients on a daily basis to provide for a healthy plant and tasty fruit, while minimising waste. Regular leaf tests are used to gauge these levels in all of our crops.





Carbon Neutral

Skybury is embarking on the reduction of our carbon footprint through various methods. This includes the reduction of on-grid electricity use by compensating with solar power. Skybury has now installed over 200KW of solar capacity across the farm. We have also upgraded all our pumps to be as energy efficient as possible.

Other areas include reducing nitrous oxide emissions from agricultural land by limiting nitrogen-based fertilisers, incorporating organic matter and returning non-profitable land to forest to increase the carbon sequestering on the farm.

These and other initiatives form part of the sustainable action plan that we have developed. Further to this we are also improving pest and disease control, reducing the need for spaying, and therefore the use of fossil fuels.



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No GM Plants

All our plant materials are bred through tissue culture techniques, without the use of genetically altered material. We allow for natural selection and screen the resulting plants for their positive attributes.

R&D Program

Research, development and innovation form the pillars of our on-going focus of improving fruit quality, disease resistance and yield, while reducing input cost and our impact on the environment and carbon footprint.

Integrated Native Bird and Animal Protection

On farm wetland areas allow for the breeding of Magpie Geese and other native and migratory bird and animal species. We also actively undertake the restoration of native vegetation and re-introduction of trees into non profitable agricultural and headland areas.

Further to this we protect the natural bush land areas around the farm by managing fire potential and the control of invasive weeds.



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Solar Power

We currently have the capacity to produce over half of our electrical requirements with plans to add more solar panels in the future.



Plant Breeding Program

Skybury has an active on-farm breeding program to constantly improve the eating quality, fruit yield and natural resistance to disease and pest pressure.

IPM Program

Skybury adopted an Integrated Pest Management system 25 years ago, which has together with current farm practices resulted in a reduction of pesticide usage by 70%. It also gives us the opportunity to control pests effectively with environmentally friendly products, which are not harmful to natural predators and bees. Skybury regularly introduces beneficial insects into our ecosystem to assist in maintaining balance.



Clean Water Discharge

As part of Skybury's best practice management, we plant and maintain inter-row vegetation to reduce erosion and loss of valuable top soil.

This combined with our efficient use of fertilisers reduces our nutrient run-off. Water leaving the property is tested to ensure no nutrients are lost into the river systems.

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Rainforest Renewal

We have planted rainforest and native trees in our gullies in order to protect the natural river line and to provide corridors for native wildlife.

Sustainable Workforce Value

Skybury's employment program aims to empower our workforce through training and the remuneration of employees in a manner that is sustainable and fair to them and their families. We look for opportunities to provide our employees with career opportunities and a personal growth strategy.

