



## Australian Broadband Guarantee — Small Business

### Small business in the jungle connected to broadband

With a mountain in the backyard, two creeks and surrounded by a jungle rainforest, Laurie Fitzgerald's small tourist accommodation business is a 22-acre property at Cape Tribulation in North Queensland, or what he likes to call 'a rainforest sanctuary'.

Powered only by solar and a water turbine, Laurie's business, the Daintree Deep Forest Lodge, keeps him very busy. Particularly since he connected his small business to broadband with the assistance of the Australian Government's Australian Broadband Guarantee program.

'With only three units on offer we can get booked out very quickly, especially these days with everyone using emails for their bookings,' Laurie said.

'We hardly ever get a direct phone call anymore, even though we have a freecall number!'

Laurie used to have an ISDN connection to the internet that he used on his PC. With the help of his local computer shop, he was able to register with the Australian Broadband Guarantee program and connect to satellite high-speed broadband through Active8me, an internet service provider registered with the program.



'The Australian Broadband Guarantee program is a very useful program, I think it would have cost us a fortune otherwise and we wouldn't have bothered with that,' Laurie said.

'We chose the 500MB download broadband plan because we tend to use it mainly to manage our website and check and send emails.'

'It is so fast compared to what we had before!'

Laurie enjoys using his broadband connection so much that he doesn't even disconnect anymore.

'We are permanently connected to the internet now so it's great for our business—we are much happier.'

For more information about the Australian Broadband Guarantee program, call the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy on **freecall 1800 883 488** or visit [www.dbcde.gov.au/abg](http://www.dbcde.gov.au/abg)