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SMALL STEPS SIGNAL BIG CHANGE IN 'ECOMODATION'

The words 'eco' and 'travel' usually go together with a remote location and an expensive price tag, but widespread New Zealand serviced apartment group Quest, is hoping to change that.

The group synonymous with value for money is the first in the country to launch a new range of fully biodegradable guest amenities, using new eco packaging technology.

The range is now available in all 28 Quest Serviced Apartment sites nationwide and is anticipated to save over 500,000 plastic bottles a year from permanent landfill.

As Quest NZ CEO Stephen Mansfield explains, the new amenities line is a small step that signals big change.

"As far as sustainability is concerned, small choices often add up to a significant impact. We don't think you have to be a luxury eco retreat to offer responsible, sustainable accommodation."

Quest co-developed the range with Concept Amenities, and Steve Duggan General Manager Sales & Marketing says the range sets a high standard for travel providers.

"We worked closely with Quest to produce this biodegradable range using our new ERP™ packaging material, it contains a natural enzyme that renders the plastic packaging biodegradable in a seven to ten year period.

"Quest New Zealand is the one of the first accommodation providers in the world to have it. We think this sets a high environmental standard for the sector as a whole."

The sector benchmark is Qualmark and the new amenities line is one initiative the Quest group has taken as part of their responsible tourism and sustainability programme. Geoff Penrose, Qualmark CEO describes Quest's approach as so far so good.

"The strength of Qualmark's environmental accreditation system is it recognises operators taking actions based on their unique environment. Identifying and significantly reducing environmental impact starts with a commitment to measurable outcomes; so far Quest is setting a very good example of this."

Quest's other environmental initiatives include energy efficient lighting plans, community & conservation sponsorship and a waste water minimisation policy.

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About Quest

The award winning Quest Serviced Apartment Group represents over 130 properties throughout New Zealand, Fiji and Australia www.questapartments.co.nz.