



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

11 September 2025

The Savannahlander Keeps Outback Queensland Accessible for Blind and Low-Vision Travellers

For the third year running, Cocky Guides, the not-for-profit accessible tour operator and partner of Sensory Tourism Australia, has returned to Queensland's Gulf Savannah region aboard The Savannahlander, one of Australia's most iconic rail journeys.

This season, a group of blind and low-vision travellers are exploring highlights such as Chillagoe Caves, Cobbold Gorge and the Undara Lava Tubes. Along the way, they're also contributing to the local economy and building connections with communities in Almaden, Chillagoe, Mount Surprise and Forsayth.

James "Buck" McFarlane, Director and Co-founder of Sensory Tourism Australia, said:

"While we could visit this region by bus, The Savannahlander team enriches the journey with storytelling, trackside whistle stops and their close ties to the communities they serve. For our travellers, who rely on senses beyond sight, this makes the experience far more personal and meaningful."

Traveller Graham Coulton agrees:

"This is my second time on The Savannahlander, and both trips have been completely different depending on the attractions and accommodation chosen. As a low-vision traveller, I find the train incredibly accessible. Last year I touched Cobbold Gorge; this year I'm excited to explore more of the Lava Tubes at Undara Volcanic National Park and soak up the atmosphere of true bush hospitality."

While recent uncertainty around required infrastructure works cast doubt over the future of The Savannahlander, the Queensland Government has confirmed its support for this much-loved rail journey as it celebrates its 30th season.



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Travellers are encouraged to add their voices by signing a petition of support, open until Sunday, 14 September 2025:

- **Queensland residents:**
<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Petitions/Petition-Details?id=4266>
- **All other supporters:**
<https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/save-our-savannahlander>

Sensory Tourism Australia delivers supported travel year-round across Australia's gateway cities, including Sydney, Melbourne and Cairns, and is seeking Regional Tourism Organisations and Local Government partners to help grow inclusive tourism experiences.

For more information about upcoming tours, or to express interest in partnering with Sensory Tourism Australia, contact Buck at hello@sensorytourism.com

CONTACT

For further information, please get in touch with James (Buck) McFarlane via email at hello@sensorytourism.com or call 0403827666

ABOUT SENSORY TOURISM AUSTRALIA

Sensory Tourism Australia is a leader in curating engaging itineraries for blind and low-vision travellers. These itineraries showcase multi-sensory aspects of Australia's key destinations by engaging experienced local tourism businesses.

Sensory Tourism Australia is available to consult with travellers, travel agents and businesses to create supported travel itineraries to meet the needs of blind and low-vision travellers.

For more information, visit <https://sensorytourismaustralia.com/>