



The Sydney
Tower Eye

FACT SHEET

Sydney Tower Eye is the tallest structure in Sydney, and the 2nd tallest in Australia, after the Q1 on the Gold Coast (322m).

Construction started 1975 and was completed in September 1981 at a cost of 36 million dollars.

It was built in 3 stages:

1. Shopping complex at street level. 5 levels of fashion and accessories
2. 10 Levels of offices
3. Tower itself

The turret has **420 windows**.

These windows are cleaned by a hydraulically driven machine we nickname 'Charlie'. Charlie will take 2.5 days to finish cleaning. Above the Window Cleaner there is a Water Tank which holds 162,000 liters of water which acts as a stabilizer as well as a sprinkler system in case of a fire.

Above the water tank we also have telecommunication levels, and plant rooms which contain protection equipment for the tower.

The lifts have 3 speeds, which are determined by the wind speed.

At full speed the lifts travel at 7 meters per second, which is approximately 25 kph.

- Full Speed - 40 secs to obdeck
- Half speed - 80 secs to obdeck
- Slow speed - 5 mins to obdeck

The shaft holds 3 double decker elevators.

The shaft of the tower has slits in it to allow wind to travel through, this aids pressurization.



Around the shaft there are 56 cables, which are each made up of 235 strands. These stabilize the tower. If each strand was laid out end to end, they would reach Auckland from here (about 2300km).

The diameter of the shaft is 6.7 meters and the diameter of the turret is approximately 31 meters. The turret consists of:

- Level 1 — **a la carte restaurant (rotates)**
- Level 2 — **Buffet restaurant (rotates)**
- Level 3 — **Private event room/functions**
- Level 4 — **Observation deck**

The tower has 1504 fire stairs. To celebrate the Tower's birthday and to raise money for charity we open these stairs in what we call 'The Tower Run-Up'. You must be 18 years of age to take part. **The record was set in 2000 by a man named Paul Crake with a time of 6 minutes and 52 seconds.** The Tower Staff walk down the stairs every three-six months as a practice drill in case of an emergency taking a half an hour.

Observation deck stands at 250m equivalent to 76 stories.

Originally it was owned by AMP and was sold to Westfield in 2001.

From street level to the very top of the **tower is 309m**

At the very top of the tower, there is a red flashing light which acts as a navigational beacon for ships in the harbor and out at the ocean, as well as for planes flying in and out of Sydney.

The same man who operates Charlie is responsible for climbing to the top and doing maintenance checks and periodically replacing the light.

Considering the height we are at, Sydney Tower will often experience high winds, occasionally reaching 100km/h. **The tower is built to withstand winds reaching up to 172 km/h**, in which case it would sway up to 1 meter each way. The tower has never actually swayed this much and the most recorded was 30 centimeters during the earthquake in Newcastle in 1989.

