



**Michael Berkman MP**  
For Maiwar ▲

23 October 2020

Dom Courtney  
Executive Officer, Outdoor Queensland Recreation Foundation  
Via email: [eo@qorf.org.au](mailto:eo@qorf.org.au)

### **2020 Queensland state election - policy priorities**

Dear Dom,

Thank you for your email of 24 September 2020, outlining Outdoors Queensland's priorities for the 2020 Queensland state election.

For your reference, the **Queensland Greens election platform for the 2020 State Election is online at:** <https://greens.org.au/qld/plan>. Our long-standing broader policy platform is here: <https://greens.org.au/qld/policies>.

The Queensland Greens support a significant investment into government services and infrastructure as part of Queensland's COVID-19 recovery. We have a fully costed plan to create thousands of good secure jobs and fully fund health, education and public infrastructure funded by making big mining corporations, banks and developers pay their fair share in tax.

As I'm sure you would understand, if the Greens find ourselves in a balance-of-power scenario there is an enormous list of competing priorities, and the final decision on any negotiated outcome rests with the party as a whole. Many of the priorities you have identified align with our agenda. [Our Plan](#) sets out what our priorities would be.

#### **Free sport for kids**

The Greens' policy on Sport and Physical Recreation is [here](#). We've also released an initiative to fund free club sport for every single child in Queensland: <https://greens.org.au/qld/freesport>. Our plan to fund free sport for kids would be the largest ever injection of funding for organised sport in Queensland history.

Right now the average cost of club sport in Queensland is \$755 a year, and a family with three children can end up paying thousands of dollars a year just so their kids can play soccer or rugby. For many parents that's just too much.

As a result, children from low-income families are close to 50% less likely to participate in sport outside of school hours. Free club sport would change hundreds of thousands of children's lives for the better, save families thousands of dollars and inject hundreds of millions of dollars into our local community sports clubs at a time when they desperately need it.

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Our plan would:

- Guarantee all Queenslanders under-18 a free season of organised sport every year by covering all registration costs, paid directly to clubs;
- Provide \$10,000 grants to sports clubs to help upgrade facilities, recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and handle the extra registrations that will come with free sport; and
- Give parents \$150 rebate for the purchase of sports equipment.

Free sport would make sure every Queensland child has the right to play organised sport regardless of their parents' ability to pay and would increase participation by as much as 50%.

### **Fully funding our public schools**

In relation to your requests about outdoor education, the Queensland Greens have a [plan to fully fund Queensland's public schools](#). Right now Queensland state schools only receive 88% of their total needs-based funding, while both independent and catholic schools receive over 100%. Queensland State schools are the most underfunded State schools in the country because the Queensland Government only provides 69.26% of the benchmark funding levels - the worst proportion in the country.

We would commit \$8 billion to fix this funding gap and make every school a brilliant school with smaller class sizes, better resources and higher quality education, including outdoor education. This plan would take the pressure off schools and allow them to deliver a fully rounded education with enough resources for outdoor education, sport and the arts.

### **Improving and expanding national parks and protected areas**

The Greens strongly support expanding Queensland's protected area estate including national parks, aiming for a total of 17% of the State. Queensland is well short of this international benchmark. I've been working alongside peak advocacy organisations to push the government to make the necessary investment to meet its own targets.

I was disappointed to see that the government's recently announced Protected Area Strategy did not include measurable targets and fell short of the annual \$135 million funding commitment which the Queensland Conservation Council and others have been pursuing.

As well as expanding the protected area estate, I strongly support improving accessibility in our national parks and making sure QPWS rangers have the resources they need to manage our natural assets.

We are happy to support the commitments you are seeking in your document.

Thank you again for sharing your priorities with us.

I hope that this information is of assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact my office on 07 3737 4100 if you would like to discuss this matter in more detail.

Kind regards,



Michael Berkman MP