

14 May 2021

Your Say Redlands Coast
Birkdale Community Precinct
Yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au

Dear Birkdale Community Precinct Team,

Submission from Outdoors Queensland

Outdoors Queensland is the peak body for the outdoor recreation sector in Queensland. We represent outdoor recreation organisations and individuals in Queensland, consisting of a range of outdoor industry stakeholders, including local governments, schools with outdoor education programs, small businesses and commercial operators, activity-focused peak bodies, clubs and community organisations.

The mission of Outdoors Queensland is to ensure that all people have opportunities to create connections with Queensland's outdoors. Our vision is to create a world where the outdoors is a vital part of every healthy life - a healthy world comes from a balanced life, incorporating outdoor activities for all people.

Outdoors Queensland supports the development of a masterplan for the Birkdale Community Precinct, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide input through the community survey, the visioning process and feedback on early "What's Possible" concepts.

We note that the community consultation closed on 4th May 2021, and ask that this submission be accepted and considered despite its lateness.

Congratulations on an exceptional initial community engagement process. It was exciting to walk on land that is so significant in the country's modern history, particularly when that land has been "locked" away from the public for much that recent history.

Outdoors Queensland supports sustainable and culturally appropriate use of the Birkdale Community Precinct for a wide range of recreational and community purposes. The survey lists a large number of possible uses and these are by and large supported.

Attention should be given to current supply of outdoor activities in the region. Current and future demand must be considered carefully when faced with decisions about duplicating such activities in the precinct, e.g. BMX, skate and ramp facilities and sports facilities.

We suggest that care should be taken when considering camping and overnight stays at this site. There may be demand for these facilities in the region, however significant onsite management must be considered to ensure that the camping experience is a positive offering which is not detrimental to the overall experience by the community.



Outdoors Queensland considers all the values of the precinct important and would not rank some over others. All values of the area need to be taken into consideration when moving forward with a master plan.

The Adventure and Recreation theme clearly aligns with Outdoors Queensland's primary focus area, however we believe that if consideration and attention are not paid to all the themes during the design process, the overall experience for all visitors could be diminished.

Outdoors Queensland is willing to offer our services to help bring some of the themes to life. For example, we can approach our members to provide you with more detailed advice on demand, supply and requirements of their specialty outdoors activities.

We can provide access to Nature Play QLD experienced educators and landscape architects when it comes to guidance and practical ideas for nature play spaces and activities.

Engagement with local outdoor recreation clubs could also be valuable, for example the Wynnum Canoe Club based at the mouth of Tingalpa Creek. Club members could provide insights into issues of access, safety and movement in the creek, based on their experience. The club may even be keen to be relocated to the precinct and grow their already popular activity.

The Birkdale precinct is clearly capable of hosting a range of outdoor activities. A key feature of this site is that the western edge is on Tingalpa Creek. Access to the creek should be a key feature of the precinct, with a range of water features and activities incorporated into the design to enhance the experience.

Including an Olympic white water rafting facility or aquatic facilities in the precinct requires serious consideration. While this could create a somewhat iconic feature of the Birkdale precinct, the requirements of space and money to establish and host such facilities will have implications on all the other values of the precinct.

When it comes to walking and cycling in the precinct, a whole of region approach should be taken. Visitors should be able to ride, run or walk to the precinct from all over the region. This means considering all connections to existing and planned path and trail systems, including the Moreton Bay Cycleway. A regionally interconnected path and trail system would be a true legacy outcome of the Birkdale Community Precinct project.

We welcome further discussion on any points raised in this submission. Outdoors Queensland understands that this submission may be published by Redlands Coast Council as part of the community consultation process.

Outdoors Queensland looks forward to ongoing involvement in the development of the Birkdale Community Precinct.

Yours sincerely



Dom Courtney
Executive Officer

