

20 July 2021

Planning Manager
Management and Operations | QPWS and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
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ParkManagementPlans@des.qld.gov.au

To Whom It May Concern,

Submission regarding the Noosa Area Draft Management Plan

Outdoors Queensland is the peak body for the outdoor sectors in Queensland. We represent and advocate on behalf of outdoor organisations and individuals in Queensland.

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 appreciates the work that has been done by Department of Environment and Science (DES) in preparing the draft management plan for the Noosa area, incorporating the following south-east Queensland locations: Noosa National Park, Noosa Conservation Park, Weyba Creek Conservation Park, Keyser Island Conservation Park and Noosa Resources Reserve.

Queensland's Protected Area Estate plays a crucial role in the provision of space that is used for outdoor activities. We support the development of management plans for our State's protected area estate, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide input into the draft management plan for the Noosa area.

We support the overall goal to protect a diverse range of native plant and animal species and natural communities, while allowing for continued recreational opportunities. It is pleasing to note the recognition of Noosa Headland as an iconic destination and one of Queensland's most visited sites.

Please find attached feedback from Outdoors Queensland, which has been provided using the feedback form template provided by your department. We trust that this submission has been properly made and will be considered in the finalisation of the Management Plan for the Noosa area. We would be pleased to provide further detail on any aspects of this submission, which are summarised in the table in Appendix A below.

Outdoors Queensland understands that this submission may be published by the Queensland government as part of the community consultation process.

Please contact Executive Officer, Dom Courtney via eo@outdoorsqueensland.com.au with any queries regarding this submission.

Yours sincerely



Dom Courtney
Executive Officer



Appendix A – Submission Summary

Document type (e.g. Management Plan)	Page number	Section name or topic	Support or do not support	Justification	Suggested change
Management Plan	4	2. Kabi Kabi First Nation	Support	Outdoors Queensland supports the desired outcome and strategic management directions, particularly regarding appropriate visitor management	
Management Plan	17	4.6 Noosa Headland experience	Support	Outdoors Queensland supports the strategic management directions. However, it should be noted that restricting public access should be an option for consideration when required, not an immediate go to action, particularly if visitors to this area are to be managed to the <i>exceptional</i> level of service.	
Management Plan	23	5.5 Visitor management	Qualified support	<p>Outdoors Queensland broadly supports the desired level of service (exceptional) and strategic management directions.</p> <p>Outdoors Queensland strongly supports the proposed improvements to the overall approach to visitor management. We note that “identifying new setting-appropriate opportunities” and “improving quality of sites” are included, as is “Improving the presentation of QPWSP visitor facilities and walking tracks, especially in the Noosa Headland section”. It is suggested that if appropriate new opportunities are identified and visitor facilities/tracks are improved in sections of the Noosa Area other than the Noosa</p>	

				<p>Headland section, that could relieve some visitor pressure from the Noosa Headland section. This action will only become more important as the Noosa Area continues to grow in popularity.</p> <p>Outdoors Queensland suggests that to achieve the exceptional level of service, it should not be enough to maintain access for visitors with mobility and vision impairment to only key visitor sites – more inclusive access should be available to all visitor sites.</p>	<p>Remove the word “key” from Custodial obligations – “Maintain appropriate access to Noosa Area visitor sites for visitors with mobility and vision impairment.”</p>
Management Plan	24	5.6 Community, partnership and other interests	Support	<p>Outdoors Queensland supports the management direction statement, desired level of service and strategic management directions.</p> <p>As a community organisation, Outdoors Queensland would be willing to engage with QPWSP regarding more formalised programs.</p>	
Management Plan	26	5.7 and 5.8 Field management capability and Operational planning and management support	Support	<p>Outdoors Queensland supports the management direction statement, desired level of service and strategic management directions. We note that visitor use and community expectations are very high for the Noosa Area.</p> <p>It is suggested that enhanced visitor monitoring should be considered to obtain a true and accurate number of visitors to the Noosa Area. Investing in more accurate visitor monitoring could allow QPWSP to make better informed decisions regarding ongoing resources investment across the Noosa Area.</p>	