

1 December 2021

Attn Katherine Webber  
Sport and Recreation Planner  
Sport Leisure and Facilities  
City of Logan  
PO Box 3226  
Logan City DC QLD 4114

Dear Katherine,

**Submission regarding Recreational Trails Strategy 2022-2032**

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 the City of Logan Recreational Trails Strategy 2022-2032. We contributed through a stakeholder interview in November 2021 and promotion of the opportunity to the Outdoors Queensland networks. We appreciate the opportunity to provide additional input into this process via this submission.

We understand that the Logan Recreation Trails Strategy 2010-2020 will be replaced by this new strategy. We suggest that many elements of the 2010-2020 Strategy should be carried across into the new strategy, and augmented with actions that have emerged in the decade since the 2010-2020 strategy was released.

The 2010-2020 strategy recognises the range of benefits of trails. Since the release of that strategy, further research has been done on these benefits, concretising the values and benefits of trail networks to communities.

It is important that trails are provided for a range of outdoor activities in the new strategy. The 2010-2020 trails strategy provided a definition of "trail" for the purposes of that strategy. Outdoors Queensland notes that 2010-2020 strategy applied to non-motorised recreational uses, such as horse riding, walking, off-road cycling and paddling. Motorised recreational activities were excluded from that definition. It is suggested that if motorised recreational activities (such as trail bike riding and four wheel driving) are excluded from the scope of the 2022-2032 strategy, then consideration may be required for the development of a separate trails strategy for these activities.

In 2019, the Queensland government released the *Activate! Queensland 2019-2029* strategy, with the stated vision of that strategy being that "Physical activity enriches the Queensland way of life." *Activate! Queensland 2019-2029* sets out a range of priorities that City of Logan could consider for inclusion in its new Recreational Trails Strategy.



Another significant development in recent years has been that other large local government authorities, particularly in south east Queensland, have appointed officers who are specifically responsible for the development, management and activation of recreational trails across the local government area. These officers provide a central point of contact for community, other interested government agencies and relevant council departments, and provide a coordinated approach to recreational trails. It is suggested that City of Logan could consider appointing a recreational trails officer (or officers) who would deliver that service regarding trails as part of the implementation of the new strategy.

An emerging trend that should be considered in this new strategy is the significant growth in electric bicycles (including e-mountain bikes) and electric scooters or other devices. These power-assisted devices have a place on recreational trails, and planning is required to ensure that the appropriate infrastructure and management is in place.

Another trend is the popularity of adaptive mountain bikes for people living with a disability. Adaptive mountain bikes are wider than standard mountain bikes and have slightly different requirements regarding slope and camber, so trails that will accommodate adaptive mountain bikes need to be designed and constructed slightly differently to standard single track mountain bike trail.

Outdoors Queensland welcomes the stated intent of the new strategy:

“[To] further support City of Logan to be recognised as an active and healthy community, provide benefits for residents and visitors, and be a vibrant visitor destination.”

We suggest that the new strategy should consider all possible users of the Logan trails network across the ten-year planning horizon from 2022-2032. That may require allowances for future trends and plans to expand trail networks to increase connectivity and accommodate demand based on expected increases in population and visitation across the City of Logan.

Outdoors Queensland suggests that a whole of landscape approach should be taken to the development of the new strategy. The 2010-2020 trails strategy predominantly focussed on the trail network within the Logan local government area. We suggest that in addition to internal trail networks, this new strategy should include links to trails that run across multiple local government areas (such as the Boonah Ipswich Trail) and links to trails that are predominantly in other local gov areas (eg Redland Eastern Escarpment).

Engagement with local outdoor recreation clubs should be included within the new trails strategy, including the RATS Cycling Club, which is a past Outdoors Queensland Award winner.

We welcome further discussion on any points raised in this submission.

Outdoors Queensland understands that this submission may be published by City of Logan as part of the community consultation process. Outdoors Queensland looks forward to ongoing involvement in outdoor recreation across the City of Logan.

Yours sincerely



Dom Courtney  
Executive Officer