



8th September 2023

ShapingSEQ Review Project Team
Department of State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning
PO Box 15009
Brisbane QLD 4002

Dear Madam/Sir,

ShapingSEQ 2023 Update

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, covering the four broad pillars of outdoors activities – outdoor recreation, outdoor education, outdoor health and nature-based tourism.

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 is pleased to make a submission to the draft ShapingSEQ 2023 Update.

We note that the first four images used in the draft ShapingSEQ 2023 Update are of natural spaces and outdoor activities:

- children walking at Boondall wetlands,
- aquatic/beach activities at Moreton Island (Mulgumpin / Moolgumpin / Moorgumpin),
- Glass House Mountains, Sunshine Coast, and
- cyclists on the Moreton Bay Cycleway, Cleveland (Nandeebie/Imdillie).

Images of other outdoor activities and natural spaces have also been used throughout the document. Outdoors Queensland is pleased to see outdoor activities being used to illustrate this document, as we believe that planning for outdoor activities must be included in planning for the region.

Outdoors Queensland supports many aspects of the draft ShapingSEQ 2023 Update. The inclusion of recreational values and opportunities is an important factor in each of the goals of Grow, Prosper, Connect, Sustain and of course, Live.

The Grow goal is focussed on sustainably and responsibly accommodating a growing regional population – Outdoors Queensland notes that the Grow theme covers “conservation areas, regional landscapes, waterways and beaches, natural resources and tourism and recreational opportunities”, and acknowledges the importance of “access to public realm, natural features and functions...”.



Outdoors Queensland is pleased to note that “significant greenspace/parks and recreation areas” are included in the proposed framework for high amenity areas, which is incorporated into Element 1 – Efficient land use of the Grow goal. In encouraging “gentle density”, it is important to consider the increasing demands and pressure this increasing population will have on outdoor spaces, even if the increase is “gentle”. We suggest that gentle density should be accompanied by programs of expansion of connected, accessible green/blue spaces.

The Prosper goal is centred on SEQ being a globally competitive economic powerhouse, “underpinned by sustainable management of the region’s diverse natural assets and resources, and a focus on high-quality design and place-making”. Outdoor activities provide economic benefits to the SEQ region, making SEQ an attractive place for people to work and play.

The Prosper goal notes that SEQ’s economic strengths include tourism and events, health, and education, which all incorporate aspects of outdoor activities across the region.

Element 7 (Special Uses) of the Prosper goal is broadly supported, noting that relocation of special uses such as world-class tourism and events destinations may not be possible where those special uses are centred on the natural values of particular places, and suggest that reliance on relocation.

As a side note, paragraphs j. and k. of the Special uses list on page 119 are direct repetitions of paragraph h. and i. of that same list.

We note that Element 8 of the Prosper goal (Rural prosperity) includes Strategy 8.3 “Encourage local government-led rural precinct planning to support rural sustainability and economic growth”.

In 2017, our organisation (then known as the Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation) made a submission to provide feedback on the Draft South East Queensland Regional Plan Review. Our submission included a suggestion that

“where outdoor recreation activities are temporarily (e.g. for a maximum of seven (7) consecutive days in any six (6) month period) located on a property, or properties, a Material Change of Use process should not be required.”

This suggestion would support rural prosperity and economic growth, and we would be pleased to see it specifically included as an example.

The Connect goal includes support for active transport, which is supported by Outdoors Queensland. However, this goal could be enhanced through the inclusion of more connected greenspace across the SEQ region, to accommodate the movement of wildlife and humans alike. SEQ has some significant assets such as the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, but work must be done to further develop these connections. For example, the completion of the Boonah Ipswich Trail would provide connection to natural spaces for the rapidly growing communities in its vicinity. This could be included in several of the Elements of the Connect goal, as region-shaping infrastructure or within movement and place, and would contribute to outcomes of both the Queensland Cycle Strategy and the Queensland Walking Strategy.



The Connect goal could be further enhanced by prioritising public transport connections to regionally significant public spaces, such as national parks – perhaps as part of Element 6 Movement and Place.

The Sustain goal acknowledges that SEQ's natural systems are assets that sustain communities, and provide tourism and recreational opportunities. Outdoors Queensland notes the connection drawn between community health and biodiversity/quality of regional landscapes, national parks, open spaces, waterways and beaches. Appropriate access to quality public spaces for outdoor activities is a key component of community health.

Outdoors Queensland supports the elements and strategies associated with the Sustain goal, particularly those in Element 4 Regional landscapes - Regional landscape values and functions are sustainably managed and provide social, environmental, cultural and economic benefits to the region:

- 4.1 Protect the values of inter-urban breaks, while providing for a range of activities compatible with their predominantly rural or natural character (Map 17, Table 15).
- 4.2 Protect regional scenic amenity areas from development that would compromise their value (Map 17, Table 15).
- 4.3 Protect and enhance the regional greenspace network, including through innovative approaches, to meet the recreational and outdoor needs of the community (Map 17, Table 15).

The Live goal refers a “A region of great places” and “active, safe, green, comfortable and accessible places...”. Outdoors Queensland broadly supports this approach, however we note that our communities also need access to places that allow us to feel a little unsafe and slightly uncomfortable, such as so-called “wild” spaces.

We support the use of the phrase “live, work and play” in the context of the Live goal, and suggest that “play” could be further emphasised throughout the document.

The various elements and strategies set out under the Live goal are broadly supported, particularly the strategies that enhance access to outdoor opportunities, such as 1.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1, 4.1, 5.3, 5.4, 6.1, 6.4, 7.3, 8.1, 8.2, 9.1, 9.2, and 9.3.

Outdoors Queensland understands that this submission may be published as part of the consultation process. Outdoors Queensland looks forward to ongoing involvement in this process, and trusts that the outcomes will be positive. We welcome discussion on any points raised in this submission.

If there are any queries about this submission, please contact the author on 0419 976 800 or eo@outdoorsqueensland.com.au.

Yours sincerely


Dom Courtney
Executive Officer

