



17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Queensland Treasury

Email – [budgetsubmissions@treasury.qld.gov.au](mailto:budgetsubmissions@treasury.qld.gov.au)

Dear Madam/Sir,

#### 2024-25 Queensland Budget Submission

Outdoors Queensland is the peak body for the outdoor sector in Queensland. We represent outdoor organisations and individuals in Queensland, consisting of a range of outdoor industry stakeholders, covering the five broad pillars of outdoor activities – outdoor recreation, outdoor education, outdoor health, nature-based tourism, and associated support services.

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 2024-25 Queensland Budget process.

The Queensland outdoor sector is broad, and responsibility for outdoor activities is spread across multiple Ministerial portfolios.

Outdoors Queensland receives funding directly from the Queensland Government through a program administered by Sport and Recreation within the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport. The responsible Minister for that program is the Minister for Sport (and Recreation), who is also the Minister for Tourism (incorporating Queensland's world-famous nature-based/adventure tourism) and the Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement.

- The Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, alongside the Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement, has responsibility for the 2032 Games legacy, which to be a true success must include provision for increased access to outdoor activities.
- The Minister for Local Government and Planning has responsibility for land use planning across the state, including enhancing liveability through accessible outdoor spaces (green- and blue-spaces)
- The Minister for Education is responsible for outdoor education, which provides foundational skills in outdoor activities for Queenslanders.
- The Minister for Health and Mental Health is responsible for outdoor health including adventure therapy.
- The Minister for Transport is responsible for active transport and regulations for vehicles and aircraft which are used for outdoor activities.



- The Attorney-General is responsible for the incorporation of associations (including outdoor clubs and other associations) and registration of charitable and community purpose organisations.
- The Minister for Fire and Emergency Services has responsibility for some of the first responders who help keep outdoor activities safe and step in when required.
- The Minister for Communities has responsibility for community services, which includes Queensland's wonderful community organisations that utilise outdoor activities as part of their operations.
- The Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills and Minister for Youth Justice is responsible for employment, vocational education and training, skills and workforce development and small business advocacy, which is all directly relevant to outdoor organisations and outdoor workers. Youth justice includes outdoor programs for young offenders.
- The Minister for Fisheries has responsibility for recreational fishing.
- The Minister for Regional Development and Minister for Water - outdoor organisations are dispersed across Queensland, with more than 50% of outdoor organisations based in rural, regional and remote areas of the state, bringing into play the regional economic development responsibilities of the Minister for Regional Development. Planning and management of water catchments directly affects these spaces which are used for outdoor activities by so many Queenslanders.
- The Minister for Resources has responsibility for reserve land (including reserves for recreation purposes), Unallocated State Land, Queensland's Stock Route network (the largest trail network in the state) and regulations that affect outdoor activities such as fossicking
- The Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef is responsible for many of the most important places that outdoor activities take place in Queensland.

#### Sport and Recreation and Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement

- Outdoors Queensland supports increased funding for the *Activate! Queensland: 2019-2029* strategy.
- We call for funding to be allocated to development of the subsequent government strategy to ensure there is continuity beyond the expiry of the current strategy in 2029, and integration with the Elevate 2042 Legacy Strategy. Outdoor activities are uniquely placed to contribute to the Elevate 2042 themes of sport, health and inclusion and connecting people and places.
- Outdoors Queensland calls for funding to be allocated to the review of the Australian Adventure Activity Standard and Good Practice Guides, which provides Queensland outdoor organisations with guidance on responsible delivery of outdoor activities.
- Outdoors Queensland calls for additional funding to be allocated to fund programs dedicated to outdoor activities, rather than the traditional model of having combined recreation and sport funding programs – this would address the inherent difficulties involved in comparing relative merits of projects that address quite different needs for our communities and would acknowledge the complexity in these systems.

#### Local Government and Planning:

- Outdoors Queensland calls for funding for a program of advice and incentives to private land holders to provide outdoor opportunities on their properties. Many private landholders already allow people on their properties for outdoor purposes and the private sector takes



pressure off our national parks and public lands. Advice could be given on development approval processes, risk management and liability insurance to help private landholders manage outdoor activities on their land, with programs developed and implemented to help subsidise liability insurance.

- Outdoors Queensland believes that funding should be allocated to support and enable local government authorities to conduct inventories and evaluate their outdoor resources and opportunities, purchase land for outdoor activity purposes, determine local and regional trend data regarding population, recreation, transportation and health as it relates to outdoor activity needs and liveable communities, plan for outdoor activity use and development of resources, and rehabilitate and construct new facilities and support services to meet outdoor activity requirements.

#### Education:

- Outdoors Queensland calls for dedicated funding to be allocated to improving the understanding of the current and potential social, personal and environmental benefits of effective outdoor education in the P-12 school system, including the benefits of building resilience, good risk management behaviours, learning outcomes, interpersonal skills, judgement, communication and self-reliance.

#### Health:

- Outdoors Queensland calls for funding to formally connect the active industry (including outdoor activities) with the health sector by:
  - o Aligning Health and Wellbeing Queensland with the Active Queenslanders Industry Alliance through a partnership in an Activate Good Health Passport which focusses on physical activity, obesity and chronic disease prevention and mental health,
  - o Health and Wellbeing Queensland establishing, through Active Queenslanders Industry Alliance, a free State-wide community-based network information and referral service for physical activity options that people can access in the communities (across fitness, sport, active/community recreation), and
  - o Recognising that physical activity can contribute to the economic recovery of Queensland through billions of dollars of economic benefit to the Queensland economy, including an annual savings to Queensland's health budget.

#### Transport:

- We call for increased funding for the ongoing implementation and enhancement of the *Queensland Cycling Strategy 2017-2027* and the *Queensland Walking Strategy 2019-2029*, which are within the responsibility of the Minister for Transport.
- We call for funding to be allocated for the development and implementation of additional strategies regarding outdoor activities and transport, including strategies to encourage and enhance motorised outdoor activities such as motorcycling (including trail bike riding), four-wheel driving and boating.
- Outdoors Queensland calls for increased funding for the development, management and promotion of trail networks across the State.

#### Employment and Small Business, Training and Skills:

- Outdoors Queensland calls for funding to be allocated to invest in partnerships that build the capacity of outdoor operators, including with Outdoors Queensland, Active Queenslanders Industry Alliance, vocational education and training and higher education



system to ensure relevant, accessible, sustainable training assists develop informed and capable outdoor leaders and programmes

Regional Development and Water:

- Outdoors Queensland calls for funding to be allocated to the development of a comprehensive understanding of the current and potential economic, social, environmental and personal benefits of diverse outdoor activities and the implications if these experiences are lost from the Queensland lifestyle, especially in regional Queensland
- Outdoors Queensland calls for funding to be allocated to Queensland Government water managers to provide spaces, infrastructure and opportunities that cater for actual and latent demand for outdoor activities.

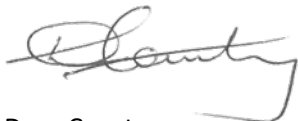
Environment and the Great Barrier Reef:

- Outdoors Queensland calls for increased funding to sufficiently resource Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to effectively manage the Protected Area Estate (PAE) and to provide support and encouragement for outdoor activities in these environments. This includes (for example):
  - o recruiting sufficient on-ground staff,
  - o provision of well designed and developed trails for multiple activity purposes,
  - o development of camping sites that can accommodate school and other larger scale groups,
  - o expanding the Protected Area Estate to ensure areas of significance are not lost to the community, and
  - o addressing the ongoing maintenance requirements of the PAE.

Outdoors Queensland understands that this submission will not be published as part of the process, however we welcome discussion on any points raised in this submission that require clarification.

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

Yours sincerely



Dom Courtney  
Executive Officer

