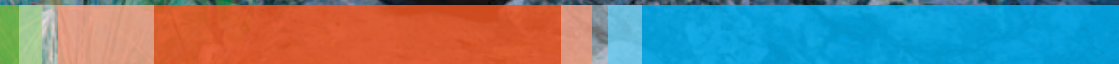


Queensland Outdoor Recreation Strategic Framework 2009—2014



Foreword

Foreword to come

From the Minister

Residents, visitors and local and state governments recognise the social, cultural, health, economic and environmental significance of outdoor recreation to Queensland and is a defining part of the Queensland lifestyle.

In consultation with local governments, the outdoor recreation industry, conservation groups, professional associations and private individuals, the Queensland Government has developed a sustainability framework to guide outdoor recreation planning, development and management across Queensland.

What people do for outdoor recreation varies across the State in response to our diverse landscapes and climates—from the sub-tropical south east corner west to the Channel Country, north-west to the Gulf of Carpentaria shores and north to Cape York—and to cultural and technological change.

The Queensland Government has a commitment to sustainable outdoor recreation in Queensland. The social, cultural, health, economic and environmental significance of outdoor recreation is recognised in the Q2 ‘Green’ targets, one of which is to protect 50 percent more land for public recreation—which includes outdoor recreation—across Queensland by 2020.

Managing the activities and places used for outdoor recreation for sustainability relies on collaborative partnerships between participants, landholders, the outdoor recreation industry, local governments and Queensland Government agencies.

The Queensland Outdoor Recreation Strategic Framework 2009-2014 (the Framework) provides the mechanisms to negotiate and sustain these partnerships and to plan, develop and manage places for outdoor recreation across the state.



Introduction

Residents, visitors and local and state governments recognise the social, cultural, health, economic and environmental significance of outdoor recreation to Queensland.

In consultation with local governments, the outdoor recreation industry, conservation groups, professional associations and private individuals, the Queensland Government has developed a sustainability framework to guide outdoor recreation planning, development and management across Queensland.

What people do for outdoor recreation varies across the state in response to our diverse landscapes and climates — from the subtropical south-east corner, west to the Channel Country, north-west to the Gulf of Carpentaria shores and north to Cape York — and to cultural and technological change.

Coastlines of sandy surf beaches, rocky headlands, mangroves and muddy estuaries give way to seascapes framed by sand islands, coral reefs and rocky islands. Vast desert skies, spiky spinifex hills, grassy plains and isolated billabongs on inland rivers contrast with cloudy rainforests, jagged mountains, tall eucalypt forests and steep coastal streams.

People experience all of these places through outdoor recreation. This is a defining part of the Queensland lifestyle.

Managing the activities and places used for outdoor recreation for sustainability relies on collaborative partnerships between participants, landholders, the outdoor recreation industry, local governments and Queensland Government agencies.

The Queensland Outdoor Recreation Strategic Framework (the Framework) provides the mechanisms to negotiate and sustain these partnerships and to plan, develop and manage places for outdoor recreation across the state.

Outdoor recreation is one landscape value. Others include:

- Water supply
- Farming
- Nature conservation
- Forestry
- Scenic amenity
- Landscape heritage (Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural heritage).

Across Queensland, we need to provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities to meet community needs, while protecting other landscape values and managing for sustainability.

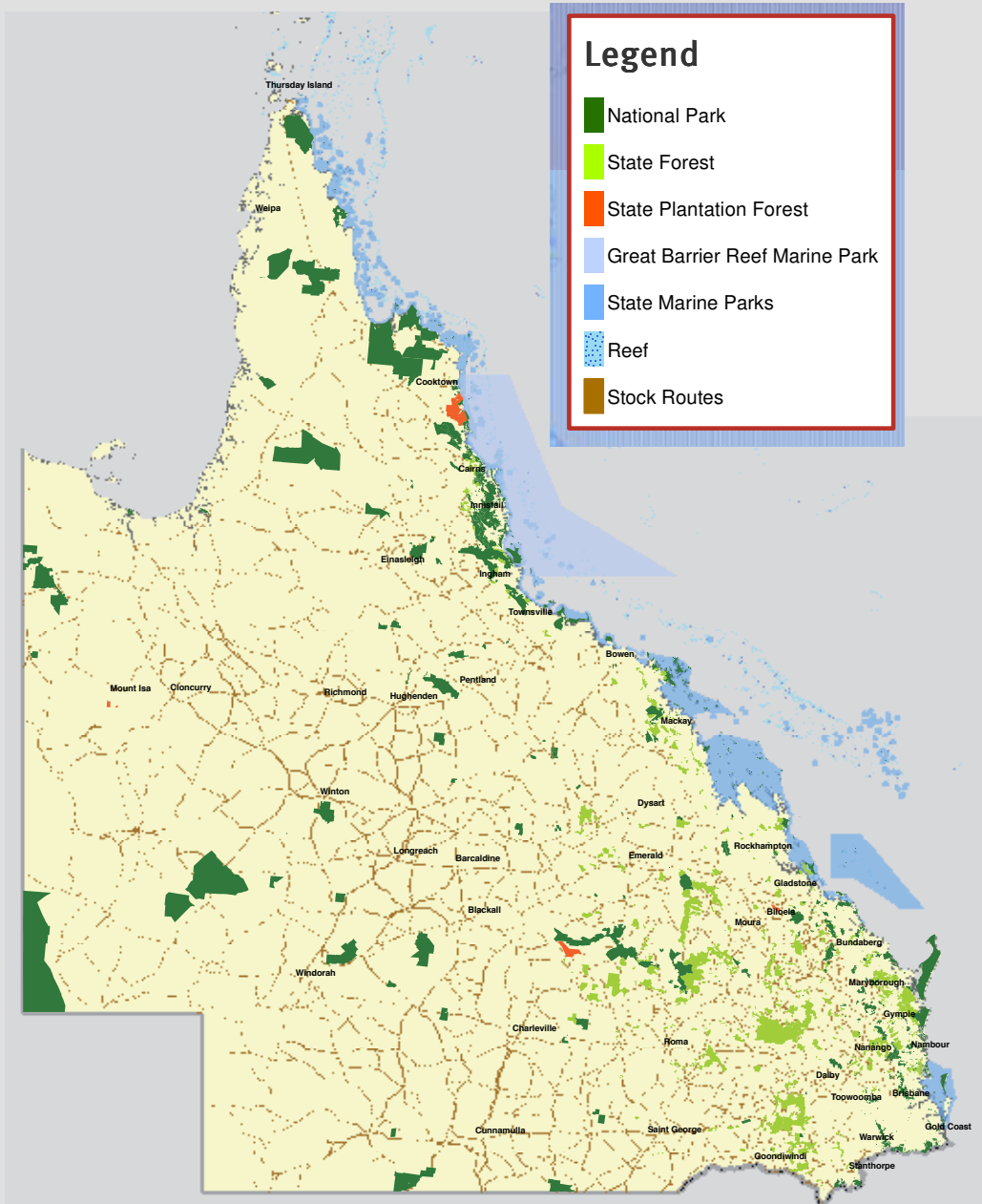
Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland

The Framework supports the Queensland Government's agenda in Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland (Q2) to ensure that in 2020 Queensland is Strong, Green, Smart, Healthy and Fair.

The social, cultural, health, economic and environmental significance of outdoor recreation is recognised in the Q2 'Green' targets, one of which is to protect 50 per cent more land for public recreation — which includes outdoor recreation — across Queensland by 2020.

For more information, go to www.thepremier.qld.gov.au/tomorrow/environment/

Places for outdoor recreation in Queensland



About the Queensland Outdoor Recreation Strategic Framework 2009-2014

Vision for outdoor recreation in Queensland

Outdoor recreation for residents and tourists in Queensland's renowned landscapes and seascapes is diverse, high quality, safe and sustainable

This vision defines the aspirations of the community, and state and local governments for outdoor recreation in Queensland. It also provides direction to regional plan principles, policies and programs relating to outdoor recreation.

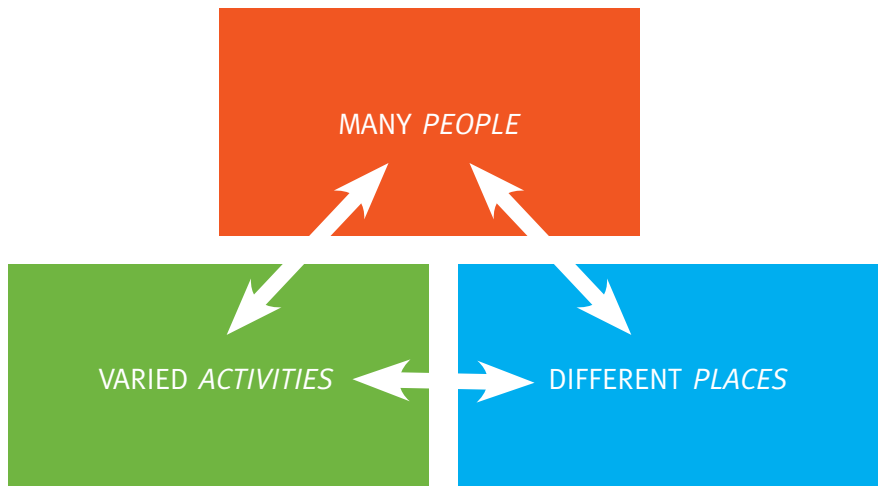
The focus of the Framework is to provide more places for outdoor recreation and to sustainably manage those places into the future. Structured collaboration and coordination for more effective and efficient outdoor recreation services forms the core of the Framework.

Year round, there is always a place to go to be in Queensland's great outdoors. Many

interstate and overseas tourists and most Queensland residents enjoy our outdoors lifestyle through activities such as fishing, picnicking, sailing, cycling, camping, surfing and bushwalking.

Outdoor recreation is so popular that, across Queensland, people spend over \$4 billion a year to participate. The resultant social, health, educational and tourism benefits contribute significantly to Queensland's identity, culture and economy.

There are many different outdoor recreation activities and each needs a particular type of place: 'surfable' waves for surfing; campsites for camping; picnic areas for picnicking; tracks for bushwalking, horse riding, mountain bike riding, trail bike riding and four-wheel driving; and inland and coastal waters with good fish habitat, public access, boat ramps and jetties for fishing, to give just a few examples.





Definition of outdoor recreation

In this Framework, outdoor recreation means:

recreation or sport activities in natural, rural and urban open space without significantly changing those places

Outdoor recreation is often a way of playing in places which are managed for other land uses such as forestry, water supply, nature conservation, farming, residential housing or transport.

These other land uses provide the physical environment for most outdoor recreation. For many people, the opportunity to experience places which are created and maintained by these land uses is a strong motivation for participating in outdoor recreation.

Outdoor recreation activities include bushwalking, surfing, picnicking, trail bike riding, camping, horse riding, scuba diving and hang gliding.

People engage in outdoor recreation for many reasons, including:

- relaxation, rejuvenation, recreation and socialising

- outdoor and environmental education
- competing
- adventure-based counselling
- healthy lifestyle
- adventure tourism, ecotourism and nature-based tourism
- nature/landscape/culture appreciation.

What is not outdoor recreation?

Activities such as tennis, cricket, bowls, speedway and the various football codes that need single-purpose designed and built facilities are not outdoor recreation. These types of facility-dependent activities are not covered by the Framework. Likewise, walking and cycling for commuting are not addressed in this Framework.

Facility-dependent forms of sport and recreation and the active forms of transport are supported by many existing policy, planning and funding initiatives which do not apply to outdoor recreation.



Outdoor recreation occurs in open space

Open space

Open space includes landscape features such as coastal waters, reefs, beaches, swamps, rivers, farmlands, natural lakes, lakes formed by dams, bushland, forests, urban parks, sand dunes, deserts, cliffs and mountains with no or few built structures.

Open space can be in public or private ownership.

Not all open space is available for public outdoor recreation.

The focus of the Queensland Outdoor Recreation Strategic Framework is to provide more places where outdoor recreation is managed for sustainability without diminishing other open space values.

Places for outdoor recreation in Queensland

A significant proportion of Queensland is available to the public for outdoor recreation. Outdoor recreation use is subject to conditions designed to avoid conflicts with the primary uses of these open space areas, minimise impacts on other important values and ensure compliance with relevant laws.

Places for outdoor recreation in Queensland include:

- Almost all of Queensland's 7,400 kilometre coastline, including our world famous surfing beaches
- Most of Queensland's territorial waters—to three nautical miles off the Queensland coast
- More than 3,000,000 hectares of state forests almost 200,000 hectares of which are state forest plantations managed by Forestry Plantations Queensland
- About 72 000 kilometres (2.6 million hectares) in Queensland's stock route network
- 275 national parks covering more than 7,730,000 hectares or about 4.5% of Queensland's land area including Queensland's network of Great Walks
- 209 conservation parks covering almost 65,000 hectares
- 67 forest reserves covering more than 179,000 hectares
- Thousands of local government parks
- Thousands of kilometres of recreation tracks, including rail trails; over 2,000 kilometres of Australia's Bicentennial National Trail; Queensland's network of Great Walks
- Major water supply dams and surrounding lands
- Many commercial caravan parks, camping areas and off-road vehicle parks.

In Queensland, few people who participate in outdoor recreation own the areas they use. Most people use places which are owned, managed or controlled by someone else—such as private landholders, private corporations, local governments or state government agencies—for purposes other than outdoor recreation. Private landholders and some government-owned-entities have no obligation to provide for public use.

High-quality places for outdoor recreation have to be carefully managed: These places are not only the major resource for outdoor recreation—they also provide for other land uses such as timber production, farming, nature conservation, transport and water supply.

Where outdoor recreation is a secondary use of open space, activities and places will be managed to protect primary uses and to ensure safety and sustainability.

Demand for outdoor recreation in Queensland

Demand for outdoor recreation from Queensland residents will continue to be strongly concentrated in the south-east corner from Coolangatta north to Noosa and west to Toowoomba, where the population is expected to increase from 2.8 million to 4.4 million by 2031.

Queensland's total population is expected to increase to over 6 million by 2031. Population growth and demand for outdoor recreation outside South East Queensland will be concentrated in regions around coastal cities and towns such as Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Bundaberg and Hervey Bay.

Tourism is a major demand driver, with large numbers of interstate and international tourists travelling to Queensland to participate in outdoor recreation activities.

Benefits of outdoor recreation

Economic, social, community, health, spiritual and educational benefits of outdoor recreation are major contributors to Queensland's livability and outdoor lifestyle.

Participation in many outdoor recreation activities involves high levels of physical exertion. More than half of all participation in sport and recreation is in outdoor

recreation. Better physical health means reduced health spending and increased workforce productivity.

In addition, there are significant social and psychological benefits for people of all ages who recreate in the outdoors, including reduced stress, improved self-esteem, problem-solving capability, better capacity to negotiate and manage risks, and greater appreciation of nature.

In 2006 tourism had an estimated net economic impact to Queensland of \$18 billion—much of which is from expenditure on outdoor recreation.

Development of the Queensland Outdoor Recreation Strategic Framework

In 2006, the Government directed that an outdoor recreation strategy for South East Queensland be developed. Work to develop the regional strategy involved consultation with local governments, the outdoor recreation industry, nature conservation groups, professional associations, outdoor recreation interest groups, individual participants and community interest groups.

In January 2007, a discussion paper on the South East Queensland Outdoor Recreation Strategy was released for public comment. A report on the submissions received in response to the discussion paper is available at www.dip.qld.gov.au

What will the Framework achieve?

The aim of the Framework is to provide long-term quality, diversity, safety and sustainability of outdoor recreation activities and places to meet the needs of Queensland's residents and visitors into the future. The following outcomes broadly define the results expected from the Framework:

1. Outdoor recreation opportunities are planned and managed for quality, diversity, safety and sustainability.
2. Planning and management for outdoor recreation is integrated with planning and management for other land uses.
3. Built infrastructure required to support participation in outdoor recreation is funded, planned, developed, managed and maintained.
4. Priority outdoor recreation issues are effectively and efficiently planned for, developed, managed and regulated.
5. Emerging outdoor recreation activities and issues are identified, assessed and managed effectively.
6. Outdoor recreation services are coordinated across Queensland.
7. Collaborative partnerships between all levels of government, community and business sectors and outdoor recreation participants are established and maintained.
8. The benefits of outdoor recreation—for health, education, tourism, rural communities, society, culture, environment and economy—are recognised and optimised.

