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Disclaimer

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Acknowledgments

First Nation Peoples’ connectivity to lands and waters within the Moreton Bay Region holds millennia-old spiritual connections, traditional law and customs, stories, and ways of life important to the protection, use and presentation of the area and outdoor recreation approaches.

Our partnerships with the Jinibara Peoples and Kabi Kabi First Nation Peoples recognise, respect and engage the right people for Country, traditional and contemporary knowledge systems, and the continual exercising of cultural and customary activities.

The Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-2031 was commissioned by Moreton Bay Regional Council in 2017 with the intent to guide the future of Outdoor Recreation within the Region with a 20 year horizon.

This document has been strengthened by input from community recreation organisations and private landowners and managers. We would like to acknowledge the contribution made by all those who gave their time towards the development of this strategy.

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1. Executive summary

The benefits of recreation and physical activity including economic, social and environmental benefits are well documented. As a service provider in our community, Council has a significant role to play in providing access to recreation opportunities. Council has invested heavily in conventional recreation facilities such as coastal pathways, swimming pools and sporting facilities, however, as new trends emerge, it is important that Council adapts its planning to meet community expectations.

In relation to physical activity in Australia, the largest growing trend is outdoor recreation. Outdoor recreation activities fall outside the scope of traditional organised sport, and are typically undertaken in natural settings and require little built infrastructure. Specifically, this plan addresses popular outdoor recreational activities such as bushwalking, mountain biking, trail horse riding, birdwatching and canoeing. It does not address intensive motorised recreation.

The Outdoor Recreation Plan is Council’s key policy document for the planning and development of outdoor recreation opportunities over the next 20 years.
2. Background

What is outdoor recreation?

Outdoor recreation is commonly defined as:

“recreation activities that are not recognised as a traditional organised sport, that take place in, or involve elements of, the urban and rural natural areas without, or minimal, site modification and/or infrastructure”
(adapted from Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation, QORF)

Outdoor recreation activities are defined by QORF as those activities that:
- Do not involve organised competition or formal rules (however, this is evolving as outdoor recreation activities become more popular as events);
- Can be undertaken without the existence of built facilities or infrastructure (however, some facilities and/or infrastructure may be provided to manage access to, and the impacts of, the outdoor recreation activities);
- May require large areas of land, water and/or air; and
- May require outdoor areas of predominately unmodified natural landscape.

Council proposes a coordinated response to guide the future planning, development and management of outdoor recreation activities. This response will support the development of an outdoor recreation network to meet the current and future desires of our community and visitors to our region. The Outdoor Recreation Plan will identify:
- The extent of the existing outdoor recreation network in the region;
- The level of community involvement in outdoor recreation;
- Community expectations for outdoor recreation;
- Key sites and programs for investment;
- Opportunities for partnerships; and
- Ways to reduce ‘red tape’ for new outdoor recreation opportunities.

The Plan will consider non-motorised activities that have minimal impact to surrounding areas and other user groups, require minimal site modification and development of facilities. The activities have been divided into four categories: land-, climbing-, water- and aviation-based. (Glossary of Activities on page 3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land-based activities:</th>
<th>Climbing-based activities:</th>
<th>Water-based activities:</th>
<th>Aviation-based activities:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bushwalking</td>
<td>Abseiling</td>
<td>Swimming in the sea, rivers and lakes</td>
<td>Gliding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain biking</td>
<td>Rock climbing</td>
<td>Canoeing</td>
<td>Paragliding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail horse riding</td>
<td>Bouldering</td>
<td>Kayaking</td>
<td>Parachuting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature study</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird watching</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sailing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orienteering</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stand up paddle boarding (SUP)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geocaching</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping in national parks and reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnicking in bushland areas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activity snapshot

There are many outdoor recreation opportunities located across the region from the hinterland to the coast. This activity snapshot gives an overview of the main outdoor recreation activities in the Moreton Bay region including locations, participation trends, consultation outcomes and potential impacts for the Moreton Bay region.

Glossary of outdoor recreation activities considered in this plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bushwalking</td>
<td>walking in natural areas (including urban) on either hard surfaced or natural trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail Running</td>
<td>running and jogging in natural areas (including urban) on either hard surfaced or natural trails testing agility and speed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Biking</td>
<td>off road cycling including different styles of down-hill/ gravity fed, cross country and cycle cross trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stand Up Paddle (SUP)</td>
<td>paddling on a purpose-built board while standing up (in waves or calm water)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail Horse Riding</td>
<td>riding a horse on a trail for recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Study</td>
<td>study or appreciation of nature including wildlife and plants in natural areas (includes photography)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird Watching</td>
<td>seeking out birds or wildlife to observe them in a natural setting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orienteering</td>
<td>participants use a map and compass to navigate between checkpoints and complete circuits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geo-caching</td>
<td>outdoor treasure hunting using GPS enabled devices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>overnight stays in a tent, caravan or motor home in national parks and/or recreational areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnicking</td>
<td>an excursion or outing in which the participants carry food with them in a natural area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abseiling</td>
<td>descending a rock face supported by a safety rope and specialist equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Climbing</td>
<td>climbing a rock face supported by a safety rope and specialist equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bouldering</td>
<td>climbing up and around low rock faces without safety ropes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>play or move along in the water for leisure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoeing</td>
<td>recreational paddling in a canoe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayaking</td>
<td>recreational paddling in a kayak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>catching fish for recreation purposes (either on land or from a non-powered paddle craft)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailing</td>
<td>boating powered by the wind in sails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gliding</td>
<td>flying a non-powered aircraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paragliding</td>
<td>jumping from an aircraft or high land form wearing a modified parachute to glide and steer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parachuting</td>
<td>jumping from an aircraft with a parachute</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: This plan considers non-motorsied recreational activities. However, some activities within the scope of the plan may have elements of motorised intervention as they require support from motorised craft to launch (the core activity will not be motorised).
About the Outdoor Recreation Plan project

Purpose

The purpose of the Outdoor Recreation Plan is to outline the future strategic direction and recommendations for outdoor recreation in the region. The plan aims to strike a balance that integrates community expectations, financial sustainability, environmental and cultural values and access to natural areas for outdoor recreation purposes. The plan will inform future council:

- Asset management plans;
- Park and open space planning;
- Capital works and operational budgets;
- Sport and recreation programs;
- Internal approval processes; and
- Ongoing community engagement.

Objectives

The objectives of the plan are to:

- Identify current participation levels and future trends influencing outdoor recreation infrastructure requirements;
- Identify and describe existing outdoor recreation opportunities in the Moreton Bay region;
- Identify specialist outdoor recreation activities which may have a broader catchment area and identify provision of these within South East Queensland (SEQ);
- Identify gaps in the existing and planned provision of outdoor recreation opportunities;
- Identify potential opportunities for partnerships in outdoor recreation provision;
- Identify solutions that resolve the provision gaps for outdoor recreation; and
- To minimise negative impact on rural, private and public areas from unregulated use.

Potential directions will be considered based on their ability to find the balance between community expectations, sustainability, environmental and cultural values and access to natural areas for recreation purposes.
Project limitations

While consultation has occurred with major stakeholders including Unitywater, Seqwater and Scouts Qld who own land identified in the plan, where the plan recommends partnerships with private landholders, these are subject to future feasibility investigations and negotiations by council.

Information contained within the plan is based on an audit and assessment of existing outdoor recreation opportunities within the region, and is a snapshot in time only. This information is accurate as at October 2017.

Constraints

- Outdoor recreation activities are dependent on access to natural areas. Often these areas have a primary purpose other than outdoor recreation that may place some constraints on the opportunities able to be developed there.
  
  Some examples relevant to the region include:
  - Seqwater lakes ➔ quality and quantity of water storage
  - State forests ➔ timber production
  - Bushland reserves ➔ amenity
  - National parks ➔ nature conservation and protection of cultural heritage.

- Unlike traditional sports, outdoor recreation opportunities cannot easily be created through the development of purpose-built facilities to increase supply. Opportunities are most-valued in highly-natural environments and often rely on landscape features such as terrain, mountains, rivers, creeks, habitats, and presence of wildlife. In many cases however, enabling infrastructure is required to facilitate the new activity in a manner which does not degrade the place (e.g. tracks and trails, parking and end-of-trip facilities).

- Planning for outdoor recreation, therefore, does not necessarily focus on developing opportunities close to where people live.

- Not all bushland reserves should be used for outdoor recreation as they may be unsuitable (e.g. difficult terrain, too small, too urban). These reserves may offer ecosystem services and amenity.

- The nature of outdoor recreation activities is that it is traditionally undertaken by individuals or small groups and are not organised - this makes it difficult to track where and how many people recreate or use a particular facility.

- The remote nature of locations for outdoor recreation is one of the key facets that attract many users. However, with this remoteness comes vast tracts of land often well away from general public view and passive surveillance. As a result, inappropriate uses can be common in outdoor recreation areas.

- For all proposed actions, an appropriate level of further investigation will be required and will incorporate environmental, cultural and social considerations. This will be detailed in an Implementation Plan to be led by Councils’ Sport & Recreation Planning unit in consultation with relevant technical departments.
3. Current supply

Outdoor recreation in MBRC

There are a number of key natural areas around the region that offer high quality outdoor recreation experiences. The QSERSA¹ survey asked respondents where they participate in physical activity. Interestingly, outdoor settings were prominent in the North Coast² region, with:

- 27% of activities occurring at beaches/ocean/bay;
- 15% of activities occurring in local reserves;
- 14% of activities occurring in national parks;
- 10% of activities occurring in state forests;
- 9% of activities occurring in rivers/creeks; and
- 6% of activities occurring in dams/lakes.

Outdoor recreation is currently occurring across the region in a range of private and public natural areas. As identified in Table 1 below, council manages approximately 5% of the identified public natural areas that offer outdoor recreation. Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing and Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy, HQ Plantations and Seqwater own and/or manage the remaining land areas. This is beneficial to council (as it reduces the demand on council as a provider) and highlights the need for partnerships in the provision and planning of outdoor recreation for the region.

Table 1: Management and area of public land that offers outdoor recreation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land manager</th>
<th>Land area</th>
<th>Percentage of outdoor recreation network</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moreton Bay Regional Council</td>
<td>2,253ha</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seqwater</td>
<td>5,003ha</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Forests</td>
<td>15,387ha</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Parks</td>
<td>23,297ha</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>45,940ha</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Moreton Bay region has an extensive network of natural areas with a wide variety of natural areas such as bushland reserves (e.g. North Lakes Environmental Reserve), national parks (e.g. D’Aguilar National Park), state forests (e.g. Beerburrum State Forest), lakes (e.g. Lake Kurwongbah), creeks (e.g. Cedar Creek), rivers (e.g. Caboolture River) and beaches (e.g. Woorim Beach), creating many opportunities for residents and visitors to participate in outdoor recreation. The classification of an activity as an ‘outdoor recreation activity’, is often influenced by an individual’s perception of their chosen activity. For example, walking along a trail through a bushland reserve in an urban area behind one’s house, or swimming at the beach may be considered outdoor recreation to some participants, while others may simply define them as physical activity. Similarly, riding a mountain bike through a natural area to reach an alternative destination may not necessarily be perceived as an outdoor recreation activity, by all participants.

¹ Queensland Sport, Exercise and Recreation Survey Adults (QSERSA) 2010
² In QSERSA, the North Coast region refers to the local government areas of Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast and Gympie
Natural areas network

A facility audit was undertaken to determine the current provision of outdoor recreation facilities across the region. It was used to determine the current supply of activities and ultimately inform future decision making for outdoor recreation opportunities.

269 potential sites for outdoor recreation were initially identified for the audit. Land Parcels that were currently ‘untouched’ (no current uses, embellishments or access) were excluded from the audit as these parcels ‘theoretically’ do not support outdoor recreation activities. Similarly, other land parcels were excluded from the audit for one, or more, of the following reasons:

- There were no existing facilities to support access or outdoor recreation activities;
- The site was deemed too small to provide for a meaningful outdoor recreation activity;
- The site had difficult terrain (i.e. too steep) which would make development costly and difficult to justify significant council investment; and
- The site was a wetland buffer meaning developing any sustainable activity was difficult, costly and activities had the potential to impact on the environmental values of the site (additionally, these parcels were quite often small).

Subsequently the number of sites included in the audit was reduced to 117. The facility audit focused on council-owned and -managed reserves where outdoor recreation is possible. The audit included a number of land parcels classified as conservation parks, environmental parks, bushland reserves, open space and constrained land.

Each facility was assigned a hierarchy that reflects the quality of the current experiences available and guides appropriate resource allocation. These hierarchies are described in more detail in Appendix C. Additionally, current (and future) hierarchies are listed in the facility audit table included within Appendix E.

It is also important to note that, unlike urban parks and sports facilities, recreation (in this instance outdoor recreation) is not always the primary purpose for the locations audited. Recreation tends to be a secondary function, with conservation most often the primary function of the land. Additionally, many parks have not had recreation infrastructure developed due to remoteness, lack of funding or timing. There may have been an intent to support recreation use when acquired/donated/transferred to council but this recreational purpose may not yet have been achieved.

Key facility audit outcomes include:

Land-based

- While the tracks and trails are generally well-maintained and quality links have been established, limited signage & mapping have resulted in a somewhat ‘hidden’ outdoor recreation network. In addition to limited directional signage, there are also very few trailheads and limited wayfinding and interpretive signage within facilities
- Mountain biking is concentrated at key locations (e.g. Bunyaville Conservation Park)
- A range of horse trail riding opportunities exist across the region (within council reserves, state forests and national parks). There are a number of areas where developers/land holders have constructed horse step-overs (and therefore identified the open space as a horse-friendly area) yet council has not necessarily recognised the area as a key horse riding area. As a result, horse riding-related development has not been undertaken (e.g. Royston Street Reserve)
Water-based

- A network of attractive waterways exists including ocean beaches, the Moreton Bay Ramsar site including the pumicestone passage, rivers, freshwater streams and two feature Seqwater lakes
- A range of formal paddle craft launch points have been established; and
- Need for a small number of additional launch points to establish water trails (particularly on the Caboolture River and South Pine River)

Aviation-based

- Caboolture Airfield is a growing facility that provides quality opportunities for gliding and parachuting. Multiple runways allow for glider launch alternatives to reflect winds and thermals

Climbing-based

- A small bouldering area is located within the D’Aguilar National Park (Cedar Creek) - this area is popular with climbers as its location adjoins swimming holes.

Additional Considerations

Picnicking

The Moreton Bay region provides a range of picnicking opportunities across its many landscapes including urban parks and more natural areas (such as Stony Creek Day use area). Picnicking is a highly popular activity. Unlike many outdoor recreation activities, picnicking can occur almost anywhere (including urban parks) and does not necessarily require facilities. As such, it is a complementary activity that can be accommodated at outdoor recreation facility trailheads. Picnic facilities can also be an attractive addition for outdoor recreation enthusiasts seeking a break from their core activities (mountain biking, horse riding etc).

Rail trails

Rail trails offer (mostly) a short or medium walk and ride trail opportunity through urban and natural landscapes. They are used for various activities including bushwalking, trail running, mountain biking (off-road cycling) and horse riding. They follow a previous transport corridor and are, therefore, always through more natural areas.

The 2007 Caboolture Shire Trails Strategy identified the Caboolture Wamuran Rail Trail as a major project that could be developed. At the time, council had previously investigated the possibility of converting the Caboolture to Wamuran Rail Corridor to a multi-use recreation trail. The strategy reported that there were significant benefits to be gained by developing the rail trail, both for local residents and potential visitors. It identified that the trail had significant potential to attract visitors to the area (the distance is attractive for day trippers). The trail will also provide walk and cycle opportunities in and around Caboolture, Wamuran and D’Aguilar for local residents. In 2010, Moreton Bay Regional Council commissioned a feasibility study of the trail including an extension to Woodford. Since that time, MBRC has undertaken further extensive planning work for the Caboolture Wamuran Rail Trail and is committed to building the trail to Wamuran in the short-term. Stages 1 and 2 of the trail have been completed, and stage 3 is expected to begin in 2020.

The Samford Valley Rail Trail (originally known as the Ferny Grove Rail Trail) is also listed as a rail trail on promotional websites (such as Must Do Brisbane and Visit Morten Bay Region).
The ‘trail’ in total is 8.3 kms. However, the rail trail itself (i.e. the traffic-free trail) is only a 1.8km sealed track connecting the Samford Valley foothills to Ferny Grove and does not have any of the ‘trimmings’ of a rail trail (such as bridges and stations). Road-based extensions can be found at either end of the actual rail trail. At the eastern end, Lanita Road connects Ferny Grove station to the start of the rail trail. At the western end, the trail is signposted as part of the cycling network and connects via roads into Samford.

**Environmental education centres**

**Caboolture Region Environmental Education Centre (CREEC), Caboolture**

CREEC is a learning centre that promotes the sustainable management of natural areas and waterways through displays, tours, workshops, talks and information about “Living with the Environment”. The centre offers outdoor recreation activities including bushwalking and nature study, with self-guided walks through the rare lowland creek rainforest ecosystem.

**Osprey House, Griffin**

Osprey House offers outdoor recreation activities including nature study and bushwalking along a boardwalk through the mangroves on North Pine River. There is a particular focus on birdwatching, with multiple bird hides along the boardwalk and lookout areas to the river. The interpretive centre offers animal displays, live streaming of the osprey nest and creative activities to spark environmental curiosity.

**Kumbartcho Sanctuary, Eatons Hill**

The Kumbartcho Sanctuary is surrounded by rainforest, a freshwater lagoon, streams and open forest. Facilities on site include a community hall, barn, barbeque area, community nursery and playground. Visitors can observe wildlife in the sanctuary such as butterflies, turtles, frogs, ducks, herons and other birds. Kumbartcho is also home to its namesake the Hoop Pine and other native flora such as the Weeping Lilly Pilly and Native Holly.
Open space network

The open space network, including foreshore parks and urban parks, supports outdoor recreation activities through complementary supporting facilities such as parking, toilets, picnic areas and playground facilities. Additionally, a number of trails have been developed as co-located facilities at urban parks and sports facilities. Combining recreation hubs can help attract people to outdoor recreation with the offer of multiple experiences. For example, the playground and picnic facilities at Bulloky Rest (Lake Samsonvale, Joyner offer a well-rounded grouping of play and fishing experiences at Lake Samsonvale while the trail head for the bushwalking trails at John Oxley Reserve (Murrumba Downs has been developed near to sporting fields, public amenities and a play node.

The table below summarises the number of publicly-accessible areas available for each of the key outdoor recreation activities.

Table 2: Number of reserves offering outdoor recreation by activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Publicly-accessible reserves</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bushwalking</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnicking</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature study</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain biking</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse riding</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird watching</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayaking/canoeing</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stand up paddle boarding (SUP)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailing</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bouldering</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gliding</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 The number of reserves listed in the table is greater than the total number audited due to multiple activities offered within some reserves.
World-class climbing on our doorstep: Glasshouse Mountains

While the Moreton Bay Regional Council area offers limited climbing opportunities, we are fortunate to have the Glasshouse Mountains just north of the region in the neighbouring Sunshine Coast. The climbing hot spot has over 700 routes recorded on thecrag.com with challenges for the beginner to expert climber. The Glasshouse Mountains offer residents in the Moreton Bay Region a world class climbing experience within a short drive.

The Moreton Bay Regional Council area contains three of the thirteen Glasshouse Mountains: Mt Elimbah (129m), Mt Tunbubudla or the Twins (312m and 293m), Mt Miketeebumilgrai (199m); however these mountains do not offer climbing opportunities.
Participation considerations

Current participation rates

Due to the informal nature of outdoor recreation activities and vast land areas, it is often difficult to capture participation rates. As such, a variety of information sources have been employed in this plan to determine what types of activities residents (and SEQ and Queensland residents more widely) are currently participating in, and their future demand. These sources include:

- Moreton Bay Regional Council Outdoor Recreation Plan Community Survey 2017;
- Queensland Sport, Exercise and Recreation Survey Adults 2015 (North Coast region);
- Ausplay Data for the Sport Sector: summary of key national findings 2016;
- Statewide Recreational Fishing Survey 2013-2014;
- Seqwater Recreation Study 2013-2014;
- South East Queensland Outdoor Recreation Demand Study 2007; and
- Participation data from various stakeholders including Mountain Bike Australia, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services, Seqwater, Queensland Rogaining Association and others.

The three most popular outdoor recreation activities in the region are bushwalking/trail running, mountain biking and horse riding (Figure 1). This is consistent with state and national level participation trends.

![Participation rates in outdoor recreation](Figure 1: Participation rates in outdoor recreation ('MBRC Have Your Say', community survey results))
When compared to participation in traditional sports, participation in outdoor recreation is significant (refer to Figure 2). Queensland Sport, Exercise and Recreation Survey Adults (QSERSA) asked respondents about the frequency of participation in their chosen activity. Interestingly, 82% of the activities for high frequency participants in the North Coast region were not organised by a club, association or other organisation. This highlights the challenge of representing the needs of people not represented or organised by a club from a planning perspective. It also suggests notable participation rates in informal outdoor recreation activities.

QSERSA is focussed on physical activity and, therefore, did not include outdoor recreation activities of camping, nature study and picnicking. When these are taken into account, overall participation in outdoor recreation activities in Queensland is expected to far exceed that of traditional sports.

![Figure 2: Comparisons between participation rates in traditional sports and outdoor recreation activities](image)

*Figure 2: Comparisons between participation rates in traditional sports and outdoor recreation activities. Note: total of values is not equal to 100% due to participation in multiple activities and non-participation in physical activity. Swimming has been excluded due to the lack of differentiation between formal sport settings (swimming pools) and outdoor recreation settings (natural settings).*

Residents are keen to participate in outdoor recreation activities. Council’s programs run at capacity - many with notable waiting lists. Additionally, local event organisers report increasing numbers in outdoor recreation events held within the local government area (mountain bike races, canoe marathons, duathlons etc).
Organised participation

Interviews with peak bodies for these activities presented a picture of growth for outdoor recreation. In many cases, peak bodies are relying on data such as participation in events and anecdotal evidence to determine participation trends. Growth captured by peak bodies may potentially be attributed to population growth rather than increased rates of participation. Population growth combined with stable overall participation rates will continue to result in growing demand.

Table 3: Perceived trends by peak bodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gliding</td>
<td>Steady</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail horse riding</td>
<td>Steady</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogaining</td>
<td>Slowly growing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain biking</td>
<td>Growing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bushwalking</td>
<td>Growing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock climbing</td>
<td>Growing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orienteering</td>
<td>Growing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoeing</td>
<td>Growing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail running</td>
<td>Growing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Participation trends

Only the SEQ Outdoor Recreation Demand Study has presented longitudinal outdoor recreation participation data. These results are presented in the table below.

More recent studies include the QSERSA and Ausplay projects have been considered in the plan. The relevant data for these two projects is included below to provide a more recent point of reference. However, it is very difficult to compare results across these studies given the different methodologies used. For example, QSERSA specifically assessed mountain bike and bushwalking participation whilst the Outdoor Recreation Demand Study analysed bicycle riding and walking more generally. Additionally, there are marked differences in some results that make direct comparisons questionable (e.g. horse riding). Regardless, when the results are considered together, it is appropriate to note that bushwalking and water activities remain popular, participation in horse riding and climbing activities appears steady, while additional data for activities such as mountain biking are required to determine firm trends.

Table 4: SEQ participation trends (Outdoor Recreation Demand Study)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage who participated in the previous 12 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Picnicking</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water activities</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking or nature study</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle riding</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riding on non-motorised water craft</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse riding</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abseiling or rock climbing</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5: QSERSA and AUSPLAY participation data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>QSERSA 2016 participation rates for adults North Coast (Moreton Bay, Gympie and Sunshine Coast)</th>
<th>AUSPLAY 2016 participation rate for adults in Queensland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bushwalking</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain biking</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational angling/fishing</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayaking/canoeing</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse riding</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1.6% *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock climbing</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Australia-wide result
Bushwalking

15% of people in the North Coast Region participate in bushwalking

60% of community survey respondents participate in bushwalking or trail running

~64,562 adults from the Moreton Bay region go bushwalking

Hot spots
- Brian Burke Reserve, Samford
- Bribie Island National Park, Bribie Island
- Bunyaville Conservation Park, Bunya
- D’Aguilar National Park, Mt Mee, Mt Glorious and Mt Nebo
- Godwin Beach Environmental Reserve, Godwin Beach
- Grogan Road Park, Burpengary
- Lake Samsonvale trails, Joyner
- Samford Conservation Park, Samford

Participation
Bushwalking/Trail Running is the most popular outdoor recreation activity at a national, state and local level. Approximately 15% of people in the North Coast region (Moreton Bay, Gympie and the Sunshine Coast) participate in bushwalking. The SEQ Outdoor Recreation Demand Study combined bushwalking and nature study as these activities are often undertaken together, resulting in a participation rate of 35% in 2007. Of the community survey respondents, 60% participate in bushwalking or trail running.

With the growing trend for people to live in high rise developments there is a need to allow people access to marked trails for bushwalking, running and mountain biking for fitness rather than them having to compete with motorised traffic and pollution in these built-up areas (survey respondent)

What does this mean for the Moreton Bay region?
Bushwalking opportunities in Moreton Bay are diverse and plentiful. Opportunities exist to develop a small number of additional trails and connect existing trails to create longer more attractive routes. Additionally, providing necessary ancillary facilities such as car parks, signage and more detailed mapping will help to meet demand and activate under-utilised sites.

Note: Bushwalking and Trail Running have been combined in this study as they have the same infrastructure outcomes.
Figure 3: Key bushwalking opportunities in the region

Legend
- Activity occurs within the reserve
- Reserves in the outdoor recreation network
- Waterways
- Road network
Mountain biking

4% of people in the North Coast Region participate in mountain biking

27% of community survey respondents participate in mountain biking

Bunyaville Conservation Park is a great venue for mountain biking and trail running. Facilities have been developed over time as the use and need has increased (survey respondent)

Hot spots
- Beerburrum State Forest, Beerburrum
- Bunyaville Conservation Park, Bunya
- Clear Mountain Conservation Park, Clear Mountain
- D’Aguilar National Park, Mt Mee, Mt Glorious and Mt Nebo
- Dawn Road Reserve, Albany Creek
- Grogan Road Park, Burpengary
- Samford Valley

Participation
Mountain biking is the second most popular outdoor recreation activity in the Region, with approximately 4% of adults taking part. The popularity of mountain biking is highlighted when these results are compared to more traditional sports such as AFL (2%), cricket (3%), football/soccer (5%), netball (3%), and rugby league (2%).

What does this mean for the Moreton Bay region?
- Mountain biking in the Moreton Bay Region is concentrated at a few key hot spots such as Bunyaville Conservation Park. Opportunities exist in developing a limited number of alternate destinations to reduce pressure at these heavily used sites.
- Many other lesser known sites exist but lack promotion, adequate parking facilities and user information such as difficulty level or access information.
- Given the popularity of mountain biking and the propensity for many users to drive to the preferred venues, ancillary facilities such as car parks and trailheads are important. A number of QPWS-managed sites provide quality mountain biking experiences yet lack suitable ancillary facilities. Opportunity exists for Council to establish a partnership approach by developing trailhead and parking facilities (on Council land) that adjoin the QPWS-managed mountain bike sites.
Legend
- Activity occurs within the reserve
- Reserves in the outdoor recreation network
- Waterways
- Road network

Figure 4: Key mountain biking opportunities in the region
Horse riding

Participation
Horse riding is one of the more popular outdoor recreation activities; however, participation is typically concentrated in locations with acreage properties. 27% of survey respondents participate in horse trail riding. Participation is also limited by access to floats and float parking for rides not accessible without transportation.

Hot spots
- Beachmere foreshore, Beachmere
- Beerburrum West State Forest, Bracalba
- Brian Burke Reserve, Samford Valley
- Bunyaville Conservation Park, Bunya

~8,608 adults from the Moreton Bay region go horse riding

We need safer trail options other than the roads... cars do not slow down and spook the horses. We just need safer options for those who want to ride and do not live on acreage (survey respondent)

What does this mean for the Moreton Bay region?
Moreton Bay offers very few long trail riding opportunities in natural areas and as a result, trail riding clubs organise private agreements with individual land holders to create long trails for club use. The risk in this approach is that the trails are not secured for future use and depend on individual agreements which may not hold over time with changing land ownership.

Some of the trails that are available to horses are not well used for horse activities due to unauthorised uses becoming a deterrent (e.g. increasing inappropriate mountain biking in Sheepstation Creek Conservation Park, Upper Caboolture). Other sites lack appropriate facilities such as float parking (e.g Beerburrum West State Forest (Bracalba)).

Other trails are located along the verge of busy roads and present safety risks to riders and their horses (e.g. Dayboro Road).
Figure 5: Key horse riding opportunities in the region

Legend
- Activity occurs within the reserve
- Reserves in the outdoor recreation network
- Waterways
- Road network
Water-based activities

- **canoe or kayak**
  - 15% of community survey respondents participate in canoeing or kayaking

- **stand up paddle board**
  - 10% of community survey respondents participate in stand up paddle boarding

- **swim in natural areas**
  - 23% of community survey respondents swim in seas, rivers, lakes, creeks or water holes

- **fish**
  - 15% of Queenslanders participate in recreational fishing

- **wind sports**
  - 14% of community survey respondents participate in sailing, wind surfing, kite surfing or paragliding

- **~12,912** adults from the Moreton Bay region canoe or kayak

Participation
Water activities such as non-motorised paddle craft, recreational fishing and swimming are popular activities in the region with many opportunities along the coastline and at lakes, rivers, creeks and waterholes. Participation in non-motorised watercraft based recreation is high at 19% for the North Coast region.

Hot spots
- Bribie Island
- Caboolture River
- Cedar Creek
- Deception Bay
- Hay’s Inlet, Griffin
- Lake Kurwongbah, Kurwongbah
- Redcliffe foreshore
- South Pine River
- Stony Creek

Seqwater lakes in focus
Lake Samsonvale and Lake Kurwongbah both offer outdoor recreation opportunities; however, they primarily serve the purpose of water supply.
Lake Kurwongbah has been partially opened to the general public since 2015 and in December of 2018 the lake become available for 7 day use for paddling, motorised water sports and fishing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lake Samsonvale</th>
<th>Lake Kurwongbah</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paddle craft</td>
<td>Club members only</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>Yes, at designated areas</td>
<td>Yes, shoreline or paddle craft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What does this mean for the Moreton Bay region?
Many water-based recreation activities occur together and require similar infrastructure such as water entry points, wash down facilities, toilets and parking.
To provide for water-based outdoor recreation in the future, the focus should be on partnership approaches and providing necessary ancillary facilities.
Moreton Bay is home to two Seqwater lakes that offer varied recreation opportunities, limited by priority of providing a source of water. Seqwater has recently reviewed recreation access, introducing greater access to Lake Kurwongbah for paddle public use.
Figure 6: Key water-based recreation opportunities in the region

Legend
- Activity occurs within the reserve
- Reserves in the outdoor recreation network
- Waterways
- Road network
Other activities

58% picnicking
58% of people in the North Coast region participate in picnicking

13% camp in natural areas
13% of community survey respondents participate in camping in national parks and reserves

7% rock climbing
7% of community survey respondents participate in outdoor rock climbing

7% birdwatching
7% of community survey respondents participate in birdwatching

6% gliding
6% of community survey respondents participate in gliding

0.6% orienteering
0.6% of community survey respondents participate in orienteering

Hot spots
- Bribie Island (birdwatching, camping)
- Caboolture Airfield (gliding)
- Cedar Creek (bouldering)
- Rothwell (birdwatching)
- Hay's Inlet (birdwatching)
- D'Aguilar National Park (camping and bird watching)

For gliding, we want promotion of our clubs and events, protection from development pressure to secure the airfield for future use and infrastructure like parking (workshop discussions)

Participation
- Picnicking is a highly popular activity that is often combined with other outdoor recreation activities such as bushwalking or nature study
- Camping in national parks and reserves is somewhat popular at 13%
- Birdwatching is a less popular activity however devoted hobbyists are willing to travel to experience this activity
- Gliding is a niche activity with a regional base at the Caboolture Airfield

What does this mean for the Moreton Bay region?
A range of outdoor recreation opportunities are provided by surrounding state forests and national parks. Council can support these providers through partnerships to deliver facilities such as car parks and toilets on adjacent council land.

 Clubs and private providers also make significant contributions in organising events and club activities. Council can support providers and clubs by partnering through their recreation programs, funding and promotion.
Figure 7: Other outdoor recreation opportunities in the region

Legend
- **Orange**: Activity occurs within the reserve
- **Green**: Reserves in the outdoor recreation network
- **Blue**: Waterways
- **White**: Road network
Recreation programs and services

Council currently offers a range of free or low cost outdoor recreation opportunities through the delivery of Healthy & Active Moreton and Active Holidays. Participants can try outdoor recreation activities under the direction and supervision of qualified instructors. Participation figures and a feedback survey for Healthy & Active Moreton and Active Holidays for the 2018/19 period indicate that these programs have been highly successful.

95% of activities received a satisfaction rating of ‘very high’. The feedback also indicated that the program introduced many participants to outdoor recreation activities that they had not been involved with previously.

Active Holidays Program

A school holiday program for children aged 3-17, that offers a range of outdoor recreation opportunities, for no/or low cost (up to $5). Activities are delivered in the region in parks, state forests and private facilities.

Types of outdoor recreation activities within the program include:
• abseiling;
• canoeing;
• mountain biking;
• rock climbing (at the Glasshouse Mountains); and
• stand up paddle boarding.

Healthy & Active Moreton Program

Healthy & Active Moreton is an annual program offering outdoor recreation experiences for all residents, for no/or low cost (for up to $20).

Types of outdoor recreation activities from the program include:
• canoeing;
• environmental education;
• kayaking;
• mountain biking;
• orienteering;
• rock climbing (at the Glasshouse Mountains);
• sailing; and
• stand up paddle boarding.
Events in natural areas

Events in the region

The popularity of outdoor recreation events, particularly trail running and mountain biking, are increasing at a rapid rate. As council currently does not have any natural areas established to host large outdoor recreation events, many of the region’s outdoor recreation events are occurring on private land (many with support/sponsorship from council).

Throughout 2017, the region hosted:

- 6 mountain biking events;
- 8 trail running events;
- 4 horse trail riding events;
- fishing events;
- Obstacle racing events; and
- Aviation-based events.

A detailed list of the events and where they were held is included in Appendix I.

Events in South East Queensland

In addition to those events held throughout the Moreton Bay region, at least another forty outdoor recreation events were spread across South East Queensland. Attracting local and visiting competitors, there is opportunity to host some of these events in the region given the appropriate facilities (on private land) and natural settings.

Overall, in 2017 South East Queensland (excluding the Moreton Bay region) hosted:

- 21 trail running events;
- 51 mountain biking events;
- 4 rogaining events;
- 4 water-based events;
- 2 bushwalking events;
- 2 climbing events; and
- 1 gliding event.
Promotion of natural areas and activities

Council promotion

The remote nature of locations for outdoor recreation activities, means that the council needs to be proactive at promoting the region’s outdoor recreation opportunities. Council currently advertise a number of recreation walks on their website. However, the site could be improved in the future and include consistency in the trail maps. In addition, the site only promotes bushwalking, mountain biking and horse riding trails.

Moreton Bay Region Industry and Tourism (MBRIT) is the region’s official destination management organisation and the lead agency for the delivery of tourism development, visitor communication and regional brand development. MBRIT operates a number of print and online platforms that are able to support the promotion of outdoor recreation opportunities to the public and private sectors.

Visitors and residents to the region can also access information regarding outdoor recreation at council’s visitor information centres located across the region.

Other methods of promotion include:

- Council’s Healthy & Active Moreton eNewsletter – a monthly newsletter that promotes opportunities to stay healthy and active within the region. The eNewsletter includes information regarding outdoor recreation opportunities and is the platform for the promotion of council programs and activation of specific trails and reserves;
- Council’s Sport and Recreation eNewsletter - a weekly newsletter for sport and recreation organisations with an overview of current funding, education and training opportunities, ways to improve club governance and upcoming recreation programs, events and awards;
- Council’s Community Links eNewsletter – a fortnightly newsletter covering a range of information relating to funding and employment opportunities, professional development training, new initiatives and events for communities and community service organisations;
- Social media and chat sites (such as Meet Up) are being used by informal groups to organise outdoor recreation get-togethers; and
- Visit Moreton Bay website, an on-line initiative to promote tourism within the region including recreation and active opportunities.
State government recreation services

The Queensland State Government and Seqwater provide services to promote and manage outdoor recreation on non-council land within the region. These include:

- Queensland National Parks Visitor Guides – provide links to state government services such as species guides;
- Camping Permits;
- Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation (QORF) - a state funded organisation that promotes the benefits of outdoor recreation and looks to increases opportunities. QORF is the peak body for outdoor recreation in Queensland and plays a major role in tracking trends and participation in outdoor recreation activities;
- Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing - provide funding assistance for planning and development of outdoor recreation. They also provide Get Started funding assistance to help children participate in club-based sport and outdoor recreation activities;
- Interactive Recreation Map - the Seqwater Interactive Recreation Map allows users to plan ahead and find the best lake for their recreation needs; and
- Recreation Guides - Seqwater Recreation Guides outline the facilities and permitted recreation activities for each lake and include download-able maps. The guides also offer information regarding environmental protection and recent recreation reviews.
Outdoor recreation in surrounding areas

Individual outdoor recreation activities require specific natural settings. According to the community survey, residents of Moreton Bay are prepared to drive significant distances to access an appropriate location for their preferred activity.

The community survey revealed that 36% of respondents typically travel between 30 minutes to 1 hour, while 21% typically travel more than 1 hour for their outdoor recreation experiences. These travel times support the finding that 60% of survey respondents undertake outdoor recreation activities in surrounding SEQ areas.

People from the Moreton Bay region are accessing opportunities in neighbouring council areas of:

- Sunshine Coast Regional Council;
- Somerset Regional Council; and
- Brisbane City Council.

Similarly, residents from surrounding LGAs are likely to contribute significantly to natural area visitation in the region.

Some key opportunities within a two hour radius of the Moreton Bay region include:

- Glasshouse Mountains;
- various beaches;
- Mt Coot-tha Reserve;
- Daisy Hill Conservation Park;
- Lake Wivenhoe; and
- Springbrook National Park.

---

**How far do you typically travel for outdoor recreation?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Typical travel time for outdoor recreation</th>
<th>Percentage of survey respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 1/2 hour</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 - 1 hour</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 - 2 hours</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 hours+</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 8: Willingness to travel**

**Where was outdoor recreation undertaken?**

- 51% Moreton Bay Regional Council Area
- 41% South East Queensland
- 9% Both

**Figure 9: Participation location**
4. Demand for outdoor recreation

Population considerations

Population growth

The Moreton Bay Region is one of the fastest growing urban areas in Australia. The population grew by 10.7% between 2011 and 2016 and is expected to be home to an additional 212,586 residents by 2036, an increase of almost 50% from 2016. This growing population means that the number of people seeking outdoor recreation opportunities will increase within the Moreton Bay region. If not managed properly, this demand could lead to degradation of protected land and an increase in inappropriate use of natural areas. Population growth in surrounding local government areas will also contribute to the number of people seeking outdoor recreation opportunities in the Moreton Bay region.

Changing population

Different age cohorts seek different outdoor recreation experiences. The proportion of persons 65 years and older in the Moreton Bay region is expected to reach 20.85% by 2036. The older generation has a tendency to prefer the more passive activities, such as bushwalking and nature appreciation. In contrast, younger residents and visitors are more likely to seek more adventurous and active types of activities, such as mountain biking.

Trends driving outdoor recreation

A number of trends are influencing the way people participate in outdoor recreation. These trends have been detailed below as they assist to articulate demand in the Moreton Bay region. Council will ensure it is strategic in identifying opportunities to best capitalise on these trends.

Shift in physical activity trends

Moreton Bay region and Queensland more widely are becoming a more convenience-oriented society. Shift work, increasing numbers in part-time and casual employment and family commitments influence participation as people:
- Do not have the time to commit as a regular participant or volunteer; and
- Seek facilities and participation opportunities with flexible hours.

It is becoming more common for people to desire the flexibility to do activities at their own leisure. This desire has contributed to an increasing trend in non-committal participants. These types of participants perceive that they do not have time to commit to organised sport and, therefore, seek less structured, non-organised sport and recreation activities that do not require training or competing to a schedule (such as many outdoor recreation activities).

More people are seeking ‘competition’ against themselves and are more concerned about personal performance than team performance (e.g. conquering a challenging rock climb rather than winning a football fixture).

Participation in organised physical activities is declining at a national, state and local level. Most outdoor recreation participants are not represented by club groups and prefer the convenience of participating in outdoor recreation activities spontaneously or at their discretion. This trend is consistent with the community survey, with less than half (46.9%) being a member of a club. The proportion of unaffiliated participants across the region is actually likely to be much higher due to the community survey being distributed among formal clubs.
Increasing affluence and expectations of recreation

As individuals become more affluent, the proportion of income spent on goods and leisure increases. As people spend more money on outdoor recreation and associated equipment, an increase in outdoor recreation activities, previously offered by commercial operators, has been observed. Despite cost being a barrier to participation in organised sport, participants appear more prepared to make a one-off investment in equipment for outdoor recreation that they can use at their convenience.

Loss of green space and smaller back yards

Over time, a gradual decline in lot sizes and an increase in house dwelling sizes has occurred in new residential developments across Australia’s growing urban areas. It is now more common for the footprint of new dwellings to cover a larger share of the block (increasing house-to-block ratios). This has resulted in detached homes in greenfield developments having less private outdoor space than in the past. With densification, there is also an expectation that a park will offer more choice. Residents are demanding more diverse and comprehensive facilities within parks.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that this diminishing private open space has resulted in the community placing a higher value on open space. Formal parks, sporting fields and bushland areas ensure ready access to open space. Additionally, these open spaces assist to break-up the visual impact of higher-density development.

Tourism – cultural and nature appreciation

Australians are making increased ‘lifestyle’ choices associated with greater access and contact with the natural environment. This includes aspects of urban to rural residential drift (‘sea change’ and ‘tree change’), increased demand for open space in urban developments (parks, recreation trails etc.) and increasing demands for recreation time in the outdoors (changing work patterns and day trips from home).

It is estimated that the market for nature-based tourism is increasing at six times the rate of tourism itself. This growth corresponds to an increased demand for access and contact with the natural environment.

Clearly, the provision of a network of quality outdoor recreation opportunities further establishes an area as an attractive nature-based tourism destination.

Technology

Social media and smart phones/devices are also influencing recreation activities. Outdoor recreation enthusiasts can share, admire, encourage and compete with others on-line (meaning the social dimension for open space has grown beyond the site).

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5 The MBRC Planning Scheme outlines minimum lot sizes of between 222m2 and 266m2 depending on the residential zoning
6 Australian Bureau of Statistics – Internal migration 2016
Additional considerations

The following key issues and requests were raised by the local community through the community survey, themed activity workshops, peak body interviews and additional stakeholder interviews. These considerations (demand) have been listed in their order of priority based on overall assessment of consultation outcomes.

Further opportunities

The most commonly cited barriers to participating in outdoor recreation in the community survey were a lack of appropriate locations (39%) and a lack of appropriate facilities (35%).

![Figure 10: Barriers to participation](image)

Further, the community survey asked ‘in the future, what would you like to see offered or improved for outdoor recreation in the region?’ Three of the top eight responses were more horse trails, more mountain bike tracks and more walking tracks. Here again, this highlights demand for additional opportunities.

Greater visibility of opportunities

Not knowing where to go (and what opportunities are available) was raised as an issue many times throughout the consultation. People requested maps of a higher quality for trails and other supporting resources (such as interpretive and wayfinding signage) to improve knowledge of opportunities. Members of the community have suggested that the region requires a comprehensive directory of information to promote outdoor recreation opportunities and the types of supporting facilities and access available.

A lack of directional signage was also highlighted as a key concern through the consultation processes (and confirmed through the facility audit). Many respondents note that they simply were not aware of where outdoor recreation opportunities existed.

Trails connectivity

The community would like to see greater connectivity between existing trails both within the Moreton Bay region and across the SEQ region. This would be beneficial in supporting a greater number of opportunities through potential trail routes and also assist to establish longer trails through connecting existing routes (rather than unnecessary development of complete new tracks and trails).
Ancillary facilities

The provision of quality trailheads was noted as a key demand. Depending on the individual reserve and the popularity of the activities available, trailhead requests include suitable parking (for vehicles and for floats/trailers), wayfinding and interpretive signage, access to drinking water and toilets.

Trails maintenance

Increased levels of maintenance for existing trails has been requested to improve the user experience and to ensure safety where high levels of use are evident. A number of respondents indicated that maintenance tended to be undertaken once issues such as safety and erosion had become problematic (reactive maintenance), rather than as a proactive measure.

Safety near roads

The issue of safety has been raised where trails include unsafe road crossings or follow alongside busy roads (e.g. Dayboro Road horse riding trail). For future trails, there is a preference to avoid roads to improve safety and the natural experience. Road-free trails are also better equipped to host trail-based events due to fewer risks and requirements for road closures.

Accessibility

There is demand for more all-access opportunities across the natural area network with appropriate parking provided. The provision of at least one sealed path within feature reserves providing outdoor recreation would also enhance accessibility for all users.

Programming

Council’s outdoor recreation programs have received extremely positive community feedback. There is a demonstrated demand to continue to offer this service and further increase the range of offerings and variety of times to suit a greater number of people.
## Demand summary

Table 6 below considers participation data from the QSERSA survey and council population projections through to the year 2036 in order to provide an estimate of future participation in these key outdoor recreation activities. This assumes that participation rates will remain stable to 2036 and does not include activities with participation lower than 1% (nor activities not included in the survey). These figures should be used for illustrative purposes only.

Table 6: Estimated current and future participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>QSERSA participation rate for North Coast (Moreton Bay, Gympie and Sunshine Coast)</th>
<th>2016 estimated resident population (430,414) X participation rate based on QSERSA data</th>
<th>2036 projected population (643,000) X participation rate based on QSERSA data</th>
<th>Potential participation data trend</th>
<th>Estimated increase in participants in Moreton Bay LGA (assuming maintained participation rates)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bushwalking</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>64,562</td>
<td>96,450</td>
<td>Stable</td>
<td>+31,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse riding</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>8,608</td>
<td>12,860</td>
<td>Stable</td>
<td>+4,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain biking</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>17,217</td>
<td>25,720</td>
<td>Growing</td>
<td>+8,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayaking/canoeing</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>12,912</td>
<td>19,290</td>
<td>Stable</td>
<td>+6,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational angling/fishing</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>17,217</td>
<td>25,720</td>
<td>Stable</td>
<td>+8,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock climbing</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4,304</td>
<td>6,430</td>
<td>Stable</td>
<td>+2,126</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where peak body, and SEQ demand study participation rate changes align it may be possible to predict an even greater increase in demand. In this regard, the increase in mountain bike participation may be beyond the additional 8,503 participants indicated in the table above.
5. Gap analysis

Understanding gaps in outdoor recreation

Whilst outdoor recreation planning is one type of open space planning, it is difficult to compare with more traditional open space planning for sports facilities and parks as there is currently clear standards and guidelines to support the planning and provision for traditional sporting models and recreational parks.

Assessing demand and provision gaps for formal sport is generally undertaken by considering a variety of factors including rate of land provision (i.e. number of playing fields/ courts to number of residents and place types), minimum requirements (dimensions, road frontage, flood immunity etc.) and standard facility embellishments (car parking, seating opportunities, multi-use activity space etc.). Similarly, the land required for each sport is readily articulated given that the vast majority of formal sports have designated field and court dimensions. Finally, accessibility and distribution of facilities is regularly considered in sports facility planning exercises with information on participation in individual sports readily accessible from state sporting organisations, peak bodies and local clubs.

In a similar vein, demand and gap assessment planning for parks is generally based on calculations relating to number of hectares of park type per residential place type. Councils tend to set a desired standard of service for each park type (that includes considerations such as quantity of land, quality of land characteristics and distribution) and then compare provision with population. As population increases are forecast, the council can then plan for additional park development as required.

In the formal sports facility and parks planning methods detailed above, gaps in provision are largely determined through a ‘mathematical-style’ quantitative process. Determining provision gaps for outdoor recreation is a different process.

At present there are no formalised regulations for outdoor recreation as there are for traditional sports and recreational parks. Council has the opportunity to create similar processes and service standards that are specific to the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities to assist in the planning for outdoor recreation. Consideration should be given to land requirements (terrain, land features, activity appropriateness etc.), connectivity (accessibility and linkages between recreational hot-spots) and community demand.

As a result, the gap analysis included in this plan has been undertaken to build upon existing opportunities and to embrace new endeavors where they align with demand.

The gap assessment has been developed by considering the range of outdoor recreation sites currently available (current supply) and comparing this with demand that has been derived by analysing outdoor recreation trends, community consultation outcomes, reviewing participation survey outcomes, peak body directives and key stakeholder feedback.
Current and future gaps in provision

The demand analysis has identified that bushwalking is by far the most popular outdoor recreation activity (at least three times more popular than mountain biking and fishing – the next most popular activities). It is exciting to note that the outdoor recreation network reflects these participation preferences with bushwalking available at the vast majority of developed locations. Similarly, more than one third of developed locations also offer opportunities for mountain biking, whilst boat ramps and fish cleaning tables are available across the region for fishing enthusiasts.

Participation in horse riding appears to be approximately half that of mountain biking. Here again, access to facilities appears reflective of these participation trends. There are currently 43 sites available for mountain biking and 28 for horse riding.

While rates of provision appear reflective of participation preferences, additional facilities are required to meet current and future demand across a number of key outdoor recreation activities. The need for new locations was the key outcome of community and peak body consultation. This reflects continued popularity in outdoor recreation pursuits combined with an increasing population base.

The table below summarises current and future gaps in outdoor recreation provision. Where gaps are identified, the table also indicates potential agencies to address provision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Current gap in provision? Yes/No</th>
<th>Future gap in provision? Yes/No</th>
<th>Opportunity to provide for gap? council/Private/Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bushwalking/trail running</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>council and other (QPWS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain biking</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>council and other (QPWS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse riding (trails)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>council and other (QPWS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird watching/nature study</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoeing/kayaking/SUP</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming (in natural areas)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gliding</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor rock climbing (abselling, bouldering, climbing)</td>
<td>Yes (in MBRC)</td>
<td>Yes (in MBRC)</td>
<td>Other (surrounding LGAs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kite surfing/wind surfing</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parachuting</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orienteering/ rogaining/ geocaching/ adventure racing</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paragliding/hang gliding</td>
<td>Yes (in MBRC)</td>
<td>Yes (in MBRC)</td>
<td>Other (SEQ LGAs)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Future directions

Guiding principles

The guiding principles outlined below describe the over-arching intention for the provision and management of outdoor recreation opportunities for council. These principles have helped to guide and shape the individual recommendations presented in the plan.

Quality planning

Council will ensure a strategic approach to the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities. Facilities will be fit-for-purpose and, once developed, adaptive management practices (i.e. regular audits) will be undertaken.

When planning for outdoor recreation opportunities, consideration will be given to the range of opportunities from a regional perspective. Not all activities and expectations will be accommodated (nor need to be accommodated) in each reserve or locality.

Importantly, planning for outdoor recreation will be a collaborative council approach and will include input from different areas of Council including: sport and recreation planning, strategic planning, environment, cultural heritage and others as necessary on a site-specific nature.

Enhancing existing provision

Council has limited resources to maintain and upgrade the vast tracts of reserves it already manages. Rather than look to purchase and develop significant additional lands to meet demand, the focus will be on upgrading existing facilities and providing outdoor recreation opportunities in currently undeveloped or under-serviced land. Acquisition of new land will only be considered where it creates valuable new links that enhance existing facilities and opportunities.

Sustainable spaces

Council will encourage and enable the sustainable use of outdoor recreation areas within its social, cultural, environmental and economic capacity. Cultural landscapes and ecological processes are valued, protected and enhanced in outdoor recreation facilities managed by council. Sustainability will be assessed and managed through regular audits and evaluation.

Preference is for outdoor recreation development that does not involve vegetation clearing (particularly intact remnant vegetation). Where clearing for infrastructure is required, previously disturbed sites and locations should be sought as a priority.

Adequately resourced

Council will identify and allocate resources for the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities in a strategic, efficient, transparent and equitable manner in line with recreational participation rates and council’s capacity to fund.
Partnerships

Council will work closely with other key land managers (e.g. Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing and Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy, HQ Plantations and Seqwater) to ensure an integrated approach to outdoor recreation opportunity management.

Outdoor recreation infrastructure and services will be developed in consultation with various stakeholders (including, land holders, Traditional Owners, Peak Bodies and regulatory bodies) to identify the needs of, and reduce the risk and potential conflict between different activities, land purposes and users.

Attractive

Council will ensure that outdoor recreation areas are designed and effectively maintained to an appropriate quality to encourage the community to value them and to foster high levels of use.

Adaptable

Council will ensure that multi-use facilities offer a diversity of choices that reflect the varied needs of the community.

Accessible and connected

Council will strive to develop well-linked and accessible locations that enhance opportunities for health and well-being for all while considering Council’s Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2018-2022.

Precautionary approach

Areas for outdoor recreation in Council estate are limited and (largely) non-renewable. To rehabilitate an area that has deteriorated due to the impacts of unsustainable outdoor recreation activities can be resource intensive and sometimes not possible. Precaution will be applied in instances where there is a doubt about the capacity of an area to environmentally sustain outdoor recreation activities.

Importantly, for all proposed actions, an appropriate level of investigation will be undertaken and will incorporate environmental, cultural and social considerations.

Traditional Owner Engagement

Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which may be considered within the scope of this strategy. Council recognises that Aboriginal people are the guardians, keepers and knowledge holders of Aboriginal cultural heritage. As such, the Jinibara People and the Kabi Kabi First Nation Traditional Owners will be engaged and consulted to ensure any proposed activities that are located on land related to Native Title/ Cultural Heritage, are undertaken with their input and consent.

Undertaking meaningful engagement with the Traditional Owners of this land will incorporate assessing all aspects of Aboriginal cultural heritage, including the artifacts left behind, the spiritual connections to country, and respecting the ongoing connection to the land through traditional practices.
Facility objectives and priorities

In order to provide a planned approach to the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities across the region, actions have been presented for key outdoor recreation activities. These actions and priority reflect current and (predicted) future participation, trends and demand (e.g. high demand for the activity coupled with provision gaps would result in a high priority).

Some activities have been combined where the activities have similar infrastructure requirements (e.g. wind surfing and kite surfing).

Table 8: Summary of emerging activities, their current status within the region and proposed actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Current status</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| High     | Bushwalking/trail running | • Highest participation (by a large margin)  
• Permitted on designated tracks and trails  
• Wide range of existing opportunities  
• Limited signage (directional and interpretive)  
• Continuing pressure for trails in natural settings  | • Continue to provide high quality walking tracks and trails in line with Australian Standards  
• To plan and develop a range of new bushwalking opportunities |
| High     | Mountain bike riding   | • Increasing participation trend  
• Permitted on designated tracks and trails  
• Highest levels of use not on council-managed land  
• Limited signage  
• Limited infrastructure (trailheads, car parking)  | • To liaise with land managers of key sites (e.g. Bunyaville Conservation Park) and investigate opportunities for council to provide key infrastructure on adjoining council-managed land  
• To plan and develop a range of new mountain bike opportunities |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Current status</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| High     | Horse riding (trails) | - Permitted on designated tracks and trails  
- Highest levels of use not on council-managed land  
- Conflicts with mountain biking at Sheepstation Creek Conservation Park (Upper Caboolture)  
- Limited signage  
- Limited infrastructure (trailheads, car parking)  
- Connectivity issues for longer distance trail riding throughout the western side of the region (potential safety issues with riding near to the road network) | To liaise with land managers of key sites (e.g. Beerburrum West State Forest (Bracalba)) and investigate opportunities for council to provide key infrastructure on adjoining council-managed land |
| Medium   | Birdwatching/ nature study | - The region is home to a diversity of native animals and plants across a variety of habitats  
- Pumicestone Passage is an internationally-recognised destination for migratory shorebirds  
- Council has established bird hides in key viewing locations | To continue to plan and develop bird hides (and viewing platforms) in key locations (e.g. Nathan Road wetlands/Morris Park) |
| Medium   | Canoeing/ kayaking/SUP | - Range of existing launch points  
- Limited signage and trailhead infrastructure  
- Opportunity for further activation of Pumicestone Passage; Caboolture, North and South Pine Rivers through development of additional paddle craft launch areas | To plan and develop additional non-motorised watercraft launch points |
| Medium   | Swimming (in natural areas) | - The region offers a range of natural areas for swimming (from a patrolled surf beach to free flowing creeks and water holes in natural areas) | To continue to maintain existing embellishments at popular natural swimming locations (e.g. Woorim Beach and Andy Williams Park at Cedar Creek) |
| Low      | Fishing           | - The region provides for a range of fishing alternatives  
- Boat ramps (and fishing cleaning tables) have been developed at key locations | To continue to maintain existing embellishments at popular fishing locations |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Current status</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Gliding</td>
<td>• The region is home to a high quality gliding facility based at the Caboolture Airfield (Crown land leased to the Caboolture Aero Club)</td>
<td>• To continue to support the Caboolture Aero Club (and Caboolture Gliding Club) in providing opportunities for outdoor recreation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Low      | Outdoor rock climbing (abseiling, bouldering, climbing) | • A small bouldering site is available at Cedar Creek (within the D’Aguilar National Park)  
• The Glasshouse Mountains (immediately adjoining the council boundary to the north) is considered one of the country’s premier outdoor rock climbing locations | • To investigate opportunities to support rock climbing in the Glasshouse Mountains area (in recognition of locals using this area and the limited opportunities within the council area) |
| Low      | Kite surfing/wind surfing | • Coastal areas such as Redcliffe, Scarborough, Beachmere and Bribie Island are popular locations | • To continue to maintain existing embellishments at popular foreshore parks |
| Low      | Parachuting | • Australia’s largest parachuting operation (Skydive Australia) has commercial operations based at both the Caboolture Airfield and the Redcliffe Aerodrome | • To continue to support the Caboolture Aero Club and Redcliffe Aerodrome users in providing opportunities for outdoor recreation |
| Low      | Orienteering/rogaining/geocaching/adventure racing | • Given the vast tracts of bushland within the region, there are a wide range of opportunities for orienteering, rogaining, geocaching and adventure racing subject to approval from the land manager | • To continue to liaise with local user groups and event operators regarding access to sites to prevent the mapping and use of unsuitable sites (e.g. areas with high ecological values) |
| Low      | Paragliding/hang gliding | • There are no paragliding or hang gliding operations existing within the region  
• Canungra is the ‘local’ focus for these forms of aviation-based outdoor recreation where suitable launch and landing sites have been established | • Nil |
Management and Partnerships

Outdoor recreation management

The provision of increased outdoor recreation opportunities will require effective governance and management frameworks for managing opportunities, facilities and settings.

There are six key council roles relating to the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities across the region:

- Maintenance and conservation of Council’s natural areas estate (i.e. cultural engagement, re-vegetation programs);
- Provision of locations and sites for outdoor recreation activities (i.e. development of tracks and trails, acquisition of land);
- Provision of purpose-built infrastructure for outdoor recreation activities (i.e. car parking, major trailheads, formal campgrounds);
- Provision of programs (i.e. Healthy & Active Moreton Bay Program);
- Promotion and activation (i.e. Healthy & Active Newsletters); and
- Disourage unauthorised / conflicting uses.

Each of these roles are currently delivered by a number of different council sections. While on-ground outcomes are generally quite positive, there appears to be an opportunity to improve delivery by closer collaboration. The establishment of an internal Outdoor Recreation Working Group is a key recommendation to oversee the implementation of this plan.

In addition to a number of standard work group skills (leadership, community, business, entrepreneurial, administrative and government), the specialist skills required for the group include:

- environmental/scientific skills – understanding of native flora and fauna and wider environmental issues. The ability to communicate these to a wider audience is desirable;
- engineering skills – the capacity to understand design and construction of all manner of trail infrastructure; and
- community engagement and liaison - the ability to manage diverse or difficult stakeholder issues.

These ‘selection criteria’ need to be considered in identifying preferred members. Ideally, membership would include representatives responsible for each of the six key roles noted above. This would then encapsulate strategic, parks and recreation-specific planning roles; facility development and maintenance; environmental and conservation roles; user group liaison; program facilitation and regulatory services.

It is suggested that this group could meet formally 3-4 times each year. However, there may be instances where the group needs to meet to discuss key (high-priority) issues where quicker turnaround on decision-making may be required (e.g. if new grant opportunities become available).

To provide a single point of contact for outdoor recreation-related planning and provision and to lead this internal working group, it is appropriate for council to continue to support the Outdoor Recreation Officer role. This is discussed further in the following section – Resources and Funding.
Partnerships

Land manager partnerships

As noted throughout this plan, council is not the provider of the largest land areas for outdoor recreation across the local government area – there are far greater parcels of state forest and national parks. (Importantly, participants rarely have an interest in who the land manager is – only that suitable opportunities are available to meet their needs). These areas clearly offer a wide range of outdoor recreation experiences that are planned, provided and managed by key land managers other than council. However, it is important that a regional-approach to outdoor recreation provision is facilitated to avoid unnecessary duplication and competing land/activity interests. As a result, it is recommended that an Outdoor Recreation Land Manager forum be established (and facilitated by council).

There are a range of enthusiastic and committed officers currently overseeing outdoor recreation provision in the region across a number of land management agencies. The forum should include representatives from:

- Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing (Sport and Recreation, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service);
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (Forestry);
- Seqwater; and
- HQ Plantations.

Additionally, representatives from neighbouring councils (Sunshine Coast Council, Somerset Regional Council and Brisbane City Council), should also be included in the forum given the desirability of planning and developing cross-border initiatives such as trails, outdoor climbing opportunities and other activities within the Inter-Urban Break. Council may also wish to invite representatives from Ipswich City Council and Toowoomba Regional Council given the clear outdoor recreation successes achieved in these SEQ councils.

Council’s Outdoor Recreation Officer should establish and maintain close working relationships with other council officers delivering outdoor recreation across South East Queensland. Ipswich City Council appointed a Nature-Based Recreation Officer in 2015, Toowoomba Regional Council recently appointed a Trails and Outdoor Recreation Project Officer whilst other councils have sport and recreation development officer roles that oversee outdoor recreation provision.

Community partnerships

Council’s Outdoor Recreation Officer will need to develop close ties with the outdoor recreation user groups across the region. In addition to regular liaison, it is recommended that an Annual Forum be established with representation from outdoor recreation user groups and providers, promoters and event operators. This forum will provide an opportunity to share thoughts on key outdoor recreation locations, avoid activity duplication and event clashes and for networking.

Council has established a number of voluntary conservation programs (e.g. Bushcare) that provide opportunities for participants to have a hands-on approach to conservation activities. This program has proven successful with at least forty Bushcare groups and projects active across the region. While community volunteer recreation trail construction and management has been established in State-controlled facilities, council is yet to consider this approach (other than to consider it as a potential management arrangement in the longer-term). Additionally, in the longer-term, council may investigate volunteer agreements (or easements) to facilitate tracks and trails through private property where quality network links can be established.
Commercial use of open space for outdoor recreation

Open spaces are increasingly in demand for outdoor recreation-related commercial activities, particularly for conducting events. Councils across the country are regularly reviewing their policies on these commercial activities given the opportunities they provide for physical activity and contribution toward health and well-being. Councils have an obligation to preserve open space and natural areas for the community but they are increasingly recognising that commercial use of open space can enhance its use and provide a benefit to the community.

Council has established an online event approvals process to ensure a streamlined approach for applicants. A range of resources, checklists, templates and an online application form are provided at the site to guide event organisers.

Assessing commercial use

In order to assess whether a commercial use is appropriate and not in conflict with the primary purpose of the land, guiding principles have been established to assess the broader community benefits of the commercial activity. The guiding principles include:

- community use takes precedence - the commercial activity cannot conflict with or cannot be accommodated at the detriment of the reserve designation and the primary purpose of the land;
- alignment with council’s vision - the use and its purpose must align with council’s vision and strategic direction as articulated in its community plan;
- community benefit - the use must provide community benefits; and
- limited impact - the commercial use must not unduly impact on the environmental values or the land and water, primary users of the land, local residents or businesses, council assets and maintenance.

It is important to recognise that commercial use of reserve land triggers the need for Land Management Plans. Commercial uses must be consistent with the designated reserve purpose.

Considerations for council

- The outcomes of supporting the use of public open space and natural areas for such activities is a more active population and increased activation of council’s parks and natural areas, both positive outcomes.
- Council does not have the resources to monitor the behaviour of individual providers and, thus, adherence to the permit may be complaint-driven.
- The conditions of commercial use of public open space, included in the permit, will be subject to the satisfaction of council’s Chief Executive Officer.
- Some parks/natural areas may be considered by staff and/ or elected members as not suitable for such activity (e.g. natural areas with high conservation or cultural heritage values, limited access or insufficient areas for establishment of the event ‘hub’).
Seqwater recreation review

A study of recreation conducted by Seqwater in 2013-14 found that all Seqwater-managed dams, lakes and parks together draw more than 2.7 million visitors annually.

Significant community consultation regarding the recreational use of lakes and surrounding land led to a number of upgrades to the Seqwater facilities. This includes the opening of over 7km of multi-use trails at Lake Samsonvale, a new paddle craft entry point at Mick Hanfling Park (Lake Kurwongbah), permitting of fishing from paddle craft and signage of permitted uses at Lake Kurwongbah.

The provision of additional infrastructure for water-based outdoor recreation at Seqwater-managed sites within the Moreton Bay region indicates that the demand and participation warranted additional investment into supporting these activities.

Picnic area, Lake Kurwongbah
Activation and promotion

Activation is largely related to providing quality outdoor recreation facilities and legitimate activities for residents and visitors to participate in. Ultimately, these activities can lead to education and appreciation of the natural environment. The sustainability of the activity should ensure that the natural environment is not adversely impacted.

Activation of the outdoor recreation network can include:

- education and awareness;
- facilitation and programming; and
- provision of facilities and services.

Education and awareness

At the core of activation of natural areas for outdoor recreation is the need to provide visitors with an increased awareness of cultural & environmental processes and an understanding of the importance of nature conservation. Education and awareness can be undertaken in a number of ways, including:

- On-site management presence (e.g. council staff);
- Interpretive and regulatory information (e.g. signage, information huts and interactive displays);
- Environmental education or interpretive centers and bird hides (e.g. Osprey House);
- Interpretive themed trails providing users with information at key points along the trail including the environment, culture and heritage, supported by mapping and brochures;
- Tailored environmental programs with community and school groups on key themes including recycling, planting of native species, native wildlife etc;
- Community and school group competitions with outdoor recreation-based themes (i.e. photography, drawing or colouring-in); and
- Interpretive signage including historical and cultural information.

Facilitation and programming

A way to manage access to sensitive natural areas is through facilitation and programming. This approach allows council to lead (and guide) how people interact with the natural areas through outdoor recreation. Facilitation and programming opportunities include:

- Continued incorporation of outdoor recreation activities in council’s existing Healthy and Active Moreton suite of programs. This program has proven very successful with most participants noting high levels of satisfaction and many activities being over-subscribed;
- Partner in the promotion of existing nature-based programs such as QORF’s Nature Play QLD, and host a local event within the region to encourage children and their families to be active in nature; and
- Continue to support appropriate outdoor recreation events identified by Sports Marketing Australia and through direct requests.
Provision of facilities and services

The provision of supporting facilities and services within some natural areas can allow residents and visitors to participate in sustainable outdoor recreation activities. Examples of relevant facilities and services include:

- facilities that support outdoor recreation facilities (and activities) such as car and float parking and major trailheads. Opportunities may also exist to support land managers such as QPWS by developing parking and trailhead facilities on council-land where it adjoins QPWS-managed land in need of such facilities;
- supporting other land managers (e.g. council could assist with car parking or playground development at Seqwater’s Lakes Kurwongbah and Samsonvale); and
- enabling commercial operators to establish equipment hire businesses (e.g. canoes, kayaks and mountain bikes).

Activation guidelines

In order to ensure activation of outdoor recreation is appropriate and sustainable, it is useful to consider the following guidelines:

- built facilities should be restricted to already disturbed areas;
- clear delineation of where activities can and cannot occur should be established (e.g. through signage);
- activities chosen need to be appropriate for the natural area and selected to preserve the most sensitivity value (e.g. bird watching in bird hot spots, mountain biking in appropriate terrain); and
- ensure organised activities occur in line with the Queensland Adventure Activity Standards developed by the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing to enhance participant safety.

7 minimum voluntary guidelines for organisations conducting outdoor recreation activities where the participants are dependent on the activity provider.
7. Appendices

Appendix A: Benefits of outdoor recreation
Appendix B: Explaining trailheads
Appendix C: Facility audit
Appendix D: Community survey outcomes
Appendix E: Community workshop outcomes
Appendix F: Peak Body Interviews
Appendix G: Events in the region and SEQ
Appendix A: Benefits of outdoor recreation

Outdoor recreation offers a range of economic, social, educational and environmental benefits while contributing to liveability and the outdoors lifestyle of the region. It is important to identify and articulate these benefits so that outdoor recreation is recognised as an area worthy of investment and resourcing.

Economic benefits

Outdoor recreation can provide various economic benefits to the local and surrounding communities. Worth an estimated $1 billion to South East Queensland, residents undertake approximately 170 million outdoor recreation activities annually. As participation increases, so too does the demand for equipment and/or commercial providers of activities, creating an outdoor recreation niche market.

High quality outdoor recreation opportunities, such as trails and natural areas with complimentary infrastructure (picnic facilities) encourage residents and tourists to visit and stay longer, increasing expenditure in the local community and region.

Large outdoor recreation events are increasing in popularity and draw visitors from outside the local government area, and potentially South East Queensland (depending on the event). State- and national-level competitions also draw wide visitation and have the capacity to encourage repeat tourism.

Physical inactivity has been estimated to cost 0.15% of Australia’s gross domestic product. Participation in outdoor recreation is often free, or requires a one-off purchase of equipment (e.g. kayak, mountain bike), and does not require an ongoing commitment, thus removing the common barriers for physical activity. Physical activity is one of the greatest sources of economic benefit through cost-savings from health benefits. As such, the increased provision of outdoor recreation has clear potential to encourage increased participation in regular physical activity and, thus, reduce the economic burden.

Economic benefits in focus: Blue Derby Mountain Bike Trails

The development of mountain bike trails at Blue Derby, Tasmania has transformed the economic profile of the town and brought a significant boost to the local economy through tourism and jobs. This example highlights the potential for a high quality outdoor recreation experience to draw visitors.

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8 South East Queensland Regional Outdoor Recreation Strategy, 2010
9 Economic costs of obesity and inactivity, Medical Science Sport Journal, 1999
Social benefits

Outdoor recreation offers many social benefits related to time spent in nature and physical activity. It also contributes to the lifestyle and liveability of a region, and encourages community cohesion.

Mental health benefits of regular participation in physical activity include the prevention and treatment of anxiety\(^\text{10}\), the prevention and treatment of depression\(^\text{11}\), reduction in stress\(^\text{12}\), improved mood and sense of wellbeing\(^\text{13}\), reduced fatigue\(^\text{14}\), improved concentration and enhanced memory and learning\(^\text{14}\).

Physical health benefits of regular participation in physical activity are well documented and include reduced all-cause mortality\(^\text{15}\), reduced risk of disease\(^\text{16}\), prevention of weight gain (when coupled with healthy nutrition) and improved weight management\(^\text{17}\).

Accessible outdoor recreation opportunities increase the liveability of the region and are attractive to both existing and new residents alike. Some outdoor recreation corridors have the potential to double as active transport routes, further improving opportunities for residents to stay active and healthy. There is consistent evidence showing that increased social cohesion\(^\text{18}\), improved community networks, social capital and improved family and community connectedness\(^\text{19}\) are benefits resulting from participation in physical activity such as outdoor recreation activities.

13 Exercise and mental health: many reasons to move. Neuropsychobiology, 2009
14 Be smart exercise your heart: exercise effects on brain and cognitions. Nature Reviews, 2008
15 The relationship of physical activity and body weight with all-cause mortality: Results from The Puerto Rico Heart Health Program. Annals of Epidemiology, 2002
16 Association of physical activity with all cause and cardiovascular mortality: a systematic review and meta-analysis. European Journal of Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation, 2008
18 Social environment and physical activity: a review of concepts and evidence. Social Science and Medicine, 2006
19 Social influence and exercise: a meta-analysis. Essential readings in sport and exercise psychology, 2007

Forward thinking health: NHS Scotland funds open space and recreation

The National Health Service Scotland has recognised the benefits for patients and hospital staff who participate in physical activity and recreation outdoors. NHS Scotland partnered with the Forestry Commission to deliver The Green Exercise Partnership and the Branching Out initiatives to invest in greening areas around hospitals and provide trails for patients to use for recreation, and physical activity for patient recovery programs. Feedback from patients and hospital staff showed that the greenspace provided relaxation, recreation and mental health benefits.
Education benefits

Outdoor recreation activities are beneficial for formal and informal learning. School groups utilise outdoor recreation opportunities to combine with learning activities, challenge students and expose them to new experiences. In early childhood education, spending time in nature has been recognised as beneficial for children’s behaviour and learning outcomes\(^ {20}\).

Just as important to recognise are the informal learning opportunities to be gained from outdoor recreation activities. Mountain biking can help to develop navigation, balance, positive risk taking, independence and safety skills. Nature study such as birdwatching can inspire a curiosity for the natural environment and appreciation for environmental sustainability.

Providing outdoor recreation opportunities aligns well with the goals of Nature Play Queensland, which aims to get Queensland kids outdoors, more often. Nature Play Queensland has partnered with education providers and councils to run programs and provide classroom resources to support the organisations goals. Some development areas identified in participants of Nature Play include environmental connection, positive relationship development, resilience, sensory awareness and initiative.

Nature play and outdoor education are increasingly recognised for the benefits they offer to child development\(^ {21}\). Outdoor recreation ties in well with these fields and offers an attraction for children to spend more time outdoors.

### Nature Play Queensland in schools

Nature Play Queensland is encouraging outdoor learning in schools by running events such as outdoor classroom day and providing lesson plans and other resources to school teachers. Outdoor classroom day is focussed on celebrating outdoor learning in the school yard and natural areas.

Environmental benefits

Outdoor recreation is an enjoyable way to experience and appreciate natural areas and offers an opportunity to co-fund conservation acquisitions, securing environmental areas as part of the conservation estate for ongoing environmental and recreation co-benefits and promote environmental awareness and stewardship\(^ {22}\).

Outdoor recreation activities cause varying levels of environmental impact; however anecdotal evidence demonstrates that many outdoor recreation groups have a focus on minimising these impacts and act as advocates for the environment.

Developing outdoor recreation facilities such as trails and access points can reduce the overall environmental impact by actively managing and concentrating the impacts. In the absence of authorised opportunities, unauthorised use can have greater impacts.

---

\(^{20}\) At Home with Nature: Effects of ‘Greenness’ on Children’s Cognitive Functioning, 2005
\(^{21}\) Outdoor learning in the early years management and innovation, 2010
\(^{22}\) QORF Outdoor Recreation Benefits, 2008
Appendix B: Explaining trailheads

The facility audit has acknowledged those sites with minor and major trailheads.

Minor trailhead

A minor trailhead is usually defined by the existence of:

- a small car parking area (10-20 spaces);
- single set of picnic facilities;
- water point (bubbler);
- rubbish bin;
- interpretive signage; and
- a simple map panel of the trail showing sites of interest and distances to features along the trail and regulatory information.

A minor trailhead is the point where a trail begins (or ends).

Major trailhead

A major trailhead is usually defined by the existence of:

- a larger car parking area (20+ spaces);
- significant picnic facilities;
- toilets;
- water point (bubblers);
- rubbish bins;
- interpretive signage (or suite of signage); and
- an extensive map panel of the trail showing sites of interest and distances to features along the trail, regulatory information and a Code of Conduct for trail users.

A major trailhead is the point where a trail begins (or ends).
## Appendix C: Facility Audit

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Caboolture Airport | Caboolture | Private | Airport | 30.32 | ✔ ✔ | 
Caboolture Region Environmental Education Centre | Burpengary | council | Education | 18.22 | ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ | ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ |
Chelsea St Environmental Reserve | Kippa-Ring | council | Conservation | 19.55 | | ✔ |
Church Road Park | Eatons Hill | council | Bushland Recreation | 24.96 | | ✔ |
Clear Mountain Conservation Park | Clear Mountain | National Park | National Park | 531.30 | | ✔ ✔ |
Cocos Close Park | Ningi | council | Conservation | 8.21 | | ✔ |
Cosgrove Road Park | Samford Valley | council | Bushland Recreation | 2.22 | | ✔ ✔ |
Crestbrook Drive Reserve | Albany Creek | council | Reserve | 6.66 | | ✔ |
Currimundi Court Reserve | Burpengary | council | Reserve | 1.30 | | ✔ |
D’AgUILAR National Park | Samsonvale | National Park | National Park | 10,463.37 | | ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ |
Dawn Road Reserve | Albany Creek | council | Conservation | 61.96 | | ✔ ✔ |
Dean Drive Reserve | Ocean View | council | Constrained | 42.64 | | ✔ |
Drainage Reserve (Fleet Drive) | Kippa-Ring | council | Constrained | 0.69 | | ✔ |
Drumeen Park | Narangba | council | Bushland Recreation | 2.01 | | ✔ |
Elizabeth Road Park | Griffin | council | Constrained | 48.93 | | ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ |
Facer Road Park | Burpengary | council | Bushland Recreation | 19.10 | | ✔ |
Glenhaven Close Park | Cedar Creek | council | Bushland Recreation | 0.48 | | ✔ ✔ |
Godwin Beach Environmental Reserve | Godwin Beach | council | Reserve | 26.76 | | ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ |
Golden Drive Park | Caboolture | council | Bushland Recreation | 9.21 | | ✔ |
Greenwood Crescent Park | Samford Valley | council | Bushland Recreation | 4.81 | | ✔ ✔ |
Grigor Street Park | Caboolture | council | Bushland Recreation | 1.32 | | ✔ ✔ |
Grogan Road Park | Burpengary | council | Bushland Recreation | 17.38 | | ✔ |
H E Corbould Park | Beachmere | council | Conservation | 17.25 | | ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ |

56 Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-2031 | Moreton Bay Regional Council
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<td>Toilets</td>
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This page has been left blank intentionally.
Appendix D: Community survey outcomes

Community survey outcomes

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<th>Survey Outcome</th>
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<td>Total surveys completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total dropped pins</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total contributing users</td>
<td>196</td>
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</table>

Do you participate in outdoor recreation?

- **Yes**: 97%
- **No**: 3%

How far do you typically travel for outdoor recreation?

- **0 - 1/2 hour**: 35%
- **1/2 - 1 hour**: 36%
- **1 - 2 hours**: 21%
- **2 hours+**: 8%
Participation by activity

Where was outdoor recreation undertaken?

- Moreton Bay Regional Council Area: 41%
- South East Queensland: 51%
- Both: 9%
Are any of the outdoor recreation activities you participate in club based?

- Yes: 53%
- No: 47%

Do you attend outdoor recreation events?

- Yes: 49%
- No: 51%

Examples of events include:

- National Tree Day;
- Kumbartcho Festival;
- CREEC Festival; and
- Lowlands Festival.
Barriers to participation

Examples of ‘Other’ include:
- birdwatching is disrupted by development;
- not enough bushwalking opportunities; and
- little awareness of opportunities.
In future, what would you like to see offered for outdoor recreation in the region?

- More opportunities for (safe) horse trail riding: 20
- Improved trail head facilities: 18
- More opportunities for mountain biking: 13
- More opportunities for bushwalking: 11
- More information on available locations for activities, promotion and better maps: 10
- Increased connectivity of trail network: 8
- Increased maintenance of trails: 8
- Increased signage: 7
- More outdoor recreation events: 7
- Continue and increase Council’s outdoor recreation programs: 6
- Increased access to Seqwater Lakes: 6
- Support (fund and promote) local outdoor recreation clubs: 3
- More opportunities for wheelchair users: 3
- More opportunities for canoeing/kayaking: 2
Appendix E: Community workshop outcomes

Information gathered from peak bodies and community workshop outcomes have been filtered throughout the document.

Aviation and climbing workshop

- Caboolture Airfield is a key destination for aviation activities and is well-located just 30-40 minutes from Brisbane
- The facility includes a flying war craft collection that attracts aviation enthusiasts from as far as Perth
- The Gliding Club is largely self-sufficient in the running of their club activities and facility management
- Users of the Caboolture Airfield would appreciate additional council support through:
  - promotion of their clubs and events
  - protection from development pressure
  - infrastructure (additional parking, bins and signs)
  - assistance during large events (e.g. traffic management obligations and operations).

Tracks and trails workshop

Bushwalking

- Bushwalkers and trail runners are separate user ‘groups’
- There are many locations, however, user-conflicts are an issue
- Accessing information regarding locations can be tricky for newcomers
- Many sites lack supporting facilities (e.g. carparks, toilets and signage)
- A number of links are desired by trail runners:
  - between Bracalba State Forest and Caboolture to Woodford rail trail
  - between Wamuran (Caboolture to Wamuran Rail Trail) and Woodford
  - between Wamuran (Caboolture to Wamuran Rail Trail), Beerburrum, Bracalba State Forest and connecting on to the Glasshouse Mountains
  - any routes connecting these areas should not use Newlands Road
- Hardwood logging is an issue for planning trail running events and logging schedules are difficult to acquire
- A number of issues and requests were raised that are specific to Bribie Island
- There are not enough trails with directional signage
- More walking trails and signage to embellish existing walks is desired
- There is a perceived attitude recreation trails having a very low priority on National Parks land
- People are looking for walks ranging from 20 minutes to 2 hours
- There was discussion around a walking trail behind the beach at Woorim. Sand mining was identified as a barrier between the 2nd and 3rd lagoon

Information gathered from peak bodies and community workshop outcomes have been filtered throughout the document.
Mountain biking

- People not involved in mountain biking struggle to find information on where are the good areas to go. Much of this knowledge is kept among those ‘in the know’ and is not easily accessible online.
- The main issues for mountain bikers are the conflicts between motorised track users including trail bikes and 4WDs.
- Council has an opportunity to make their local trails more obvious on their website (good maps with more detail and contours would also be helpful).
- Bunyaville Conservation Park is a key spot for mountain biking – however it requires more looping trail opportunities, separation of users and access to water.
- More links with other trails are desirable with safe access without roads, e.g. an underpass.
- Online maps of mountain biking trails are desired.
- Facility nodes at rail trails are desired.
- A regional Sunshine Coast to Brisbane trail would be appealing.
- Bike lanes linking to mountain biking tracks are desired for active transport opportunities.
- Council could also host information on riding safety and the riding code of conduct.
- There is preference for downhill riding. Elevated rides provide variety, are flowy and can offer opportunities for all levels of rider.

Horse riding

- Participants are generally happy with the range of opportunities for horse riding.
- However, parking is a big issue for horse riders.
- Beachmere is the only place to ride on the beach (excluding commercial operations) up to Rainbow Beach and should be promoted more widely.
- Beachmere currently has no float parking access.
- Beerburrum State Forest has 4-5 different rides on the eastern side of the highway. Horse riders tend to avoid the western side of the highway due to trail bike activity.
- Horse riding is not permitted on Bribie Island (however it is a desired location).
- Bracalba is a preferred location for trail rides, however, float parking is an issue.
- Sheepstation Creek was previously a popular location however it is too busy with bushwalkers and mountain biking and the facility lacks parking.
- Horse riding trails are desired west of the Woodford Folk Festival site.

Water workshop

No attendance
Appendix F: Peak Body Interviews

In stage one consultation, a selection of peak body organisations were invited to participate in interviews aimed at identifying current and emerging trends in the industry within and around the Moreton Bay Area.

The following peak bodies were invited to provide input into the development of the Plan:

- Australian Climbing Association Queensland
- Bicycle Queensland
- Bushwalking Queensland
- Dragon Boating Queensland
- Trail Running Association of Queensland
- Windsurfing Queensland
- Mountain Biking Australia
- The Boys Brigade Queensland
- Orienteering Queensland
- Queensland Canoeing
- Queensland Rogaine Association
- Girl Guides Australia
- Scouts Queensland
- Queensland Horse Council
### Appendix G: Events in the region and SEQ

#### Events in the Moreton Bay region

A range of outdoor recreation events have been conducted in the Moreton Bay region, demonstrating the existing capacity to host.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Land-based</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tough Mudder Full</td>
<td>Obstacle Racing</td>
<td>Woodford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEx Cross Triathlon Series</td>
<td>Mountain biking, trail running</td>
<td>Kurwongbah</td>
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<td>Murrenbong Camp, Kurwongbah</td>
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<td>Glasshouse Mountains and Woodford</td>
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<td>World War I Queenslander Challenge</td>
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<td>Horse trail riding</td>
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A rogaining event will be conducted from Lake Samsonvale in 2018.
**Events in SEQ**

The SEQ Region is host to a number of outdoor recreation events attracting a range of locals and visitors. The events listed below demonstrate the range of event-based outdoor recreation opportunities available to residents in the surrounding SEQ Region, and the types of events that may be possible in the Moreton Bay region given the appropriate facilities and natural settings.

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<td>Rogue Raid</td>
<td>Rogaining</td>
<td>Lake Wivenhoe</td>
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<td>Sunny Coast Scramble – Metrogaine</td>
<td>Rogaining</td>
<td>Sunshine Coast</td>
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<td>MOJO Raid</td>
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<td>Merida HV24HR</td>
<td>Mountain biking</td>
<td>Grandchester</td>
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<td>Climbing-based</td>
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<td>Queensland Boulder Titles</td>
<td>Bouldering</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<td>Kangaroo Point Cliffs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women on Water</td>
<td>Stand up paddle boarding</td>
<td>Currimundi</td>
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<td>Dragon Boat Regatta</td>
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<td>Gold Coast</td>
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<td>Mitsubishi Motors Rainbow Beach Family Fishing Classic</td>
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<td>Rainbow Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immerse SUP and Surf Paddle Festival</td>
<td>Stand up paddle boarding</td>
<td>Gold Coast</td>
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<td>Aviation-based</td>
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<td>Queensland State Gliding Competition</td>
<td>Gliding</td>
<td>Bowenville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games</td>
<td>Cycling – mountain bike</td>
<td>Nerang Mountain Bike Trails, Gold Coast</td>
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