



# *for* QUEENSLANDERS

Queensland  
**Labor**

[anna4qlders.com.au](http://anna4qlders.com.au)

Ms Donna Little  
Chief Executive Officer  
Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation  
Via email: [info@qorf.org.au](mailto:info@qorf.org.au)

Dear Ms Little

Thank you for your submission seeking the Bligh Labor Government's response to the Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation (QORF) policy proposal.

This Government understands the importance of outdoor recreation in helping to ensure that Queenslanders become Australia's healthiest people. We recognise that supporting and facilitating an environment where the outdoor recreation sector can thrive is of utmost importance.

Through our Toward Q2 vision, the Bligh Labor Government has a goal to protect 50 per cent more land for nature conservation and public recreation, to maintain and expand areas of greenspace.

The Bligh Labor Government has made significant progress towards achieving this goal, including:

- the creation and expansion of rail trails like the Brisbane Valley and Boonah to Ipswich Rail Trails, to support a variety of outdoor recreation activities;
- the commitment of \$56 million over five years from 2010-11 to acquire more land for protection, particularly national parks;
- provided \$1.2 million and 745 hectares of state government land in a joint venture with the Council of Mayors, South East Queensland (SEQ) to develop SEQ's first dedicated trail bike facility at Wyaralong, near Beaudesert; and
- opened the Kangaroo Point Cliffs Park in Brisbane, providing Queenslanders with 1.2 hectares of spectacular views and recreation space.

By contrast, Campbell Newman and the Liberal National Party continue to fail outdoor recreation. This was most recently demonstrated when the LNP announced their sporting club policy last month but did not extend it to outdoor recreation clubs. This

unfunded promise of \$6 million for sporting club vouchers means that every year, 98 out of every 100 children will miss out under their scheme. By contrast, this Labor Government already has a targeted subsidy of \$300 per year for children in out of home care to secure the benefits of both outdoor recreation and sporting activities.

Only a re-elected Bligh Labor Government will continue to support both outdoor recreation and sporting clubs.

The Bligh Labor Government is committed to making Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people, and we are committed to ensuring the outdoor recreation sector plays a large role in achieving this.

**Active and informed commitment in state and local planning provisions to ensure the creation and maintenance, and ongoing access to sufficient green/open space and water source for outdoor recreation purposes that meet the current and future needs of the Queensland community.**

The Bligh Labor Government has introduced a number of mechanisms to ensure outdoor recreation purposes are given appropriate consideration in planning provisions. This includes developing and releasing statutory regional plans under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* with specific policies, programs and projects for both greenspace and outdoor recreation. Eight regional plans have been released, including the award-winning South East Queensland and Far North Queensland Regional Plans. Similar provisions for outdoor recreation and greenspace will be included in other regional plans as they are drafted.

Regional plans help protect open space by designating a defined Urban Footprint. For example, the recently released Mackay Isaac Whitsunday Regional Plan protects 97.3% of the region from intensive urban development - ensuring the environmental values of nearly 9 million hectares of land are recognised.

The Bligh Labor Government has also developed a draft South East Queensland Greenspace Network Plan to identify core regional greenspace areas and linkages with potential to meet future demand for outdoor recreation in South East Queensland. When finalised, the South East Queensland Greenspace Network Plan will guide the expansion and development of the region's community greenspace network. Similar regional-scale Greenspace network plans for the Wide Bay Burnett and Far North Queensland regions will be developed in 2012.

In December the Queensland Government released a comprehensive plan to increase parks, recreational walking tracks, off road vehicle tracks, marine parks and other outdoor resources in Queensland.

The Queensland Greenspace Strategy 2011-2020 reflects the value Queenslanders place on their natural environment and terrific climate for outdoor activity. It also assists



the State in reaching its target of a 50% increase in land protected for conservation and recreation.

The Greenspace Strategy looks for new greenspace through opportunities such as state-funded infrastructure projects, State Development Areas, statutory regional plans, unallocated state lands that are slated for disposal, environmental offsets and regional transport plans.

The Bligh Labor Government also developed the Parks 4 People website - an online mapping and information system for the public to find local parks, provide feedback on the quality of local parks and suggest new parks and other types of community greenspace. This website also provides for State agencies and Local Governments to check and update information about community greenspace which they manage.

A re-elected Labor Government in Queensland is committed to ensuring appropriate planning provisions are in place so the outdoor recreation needs of Queenslanders can be met.

**Demonstrate support for, and inclusion of, outdoor recreation/education programs in the education system in Queensland, to encourage healthier, more resilient and innovative children, and to fulfil key learning areas as identified in the general Capabilities and Cross-Curricula Priorities of the Australian Curriculum.**

The curriculum elements that are traditionally part of outdoor education/recreation programs are delivered in schools and aligned to the Queensland Curriculum Assessment and Reporting (QCAR) Framework Health and Physical Education Essential Learnings and Standards.

Through community consultation schools identify and provide programs to meet the needs of their students and communities which include outdoor education/recreation programs.

Of the 27 Education Queensland outdoor and environmental education centres, Camp Fairbairn and Maroon Outdoor Education Centres are two specific examples of Education Queensland's support for outdoor education and outdoor recreation.

These outdoor and environmental education centres provide a range of in-school and centre based programs. Staffing of these centres is based on a fixed allocation and they offer programs within this resource limit.

The Queensland Government, through Sport and Recreation Services, also owns and operates a number of Active Recreation Centres, and we are committed to working with schools and the outdoor recreation sector to ensure these centres provide safe, enjoyable and quality recreation experiences. This includes a program to provide free

three day full adventure packages at some Active Recreation Sectors for up to 10 schools in the second half of 2012.

The Health and Physical Education learning area of the Australian Curriculum is currently in development with the scoping paper scheduled for release early in 2012.

A re-elected Bligh Government will continue to provide feedback to ACARA through the QSA to support the development of the Australian Curriculum Health and Physical Education learning area, and the General Capabilities and Cross-Curricula priorities.

**Development and delivery of a State Government and Sector agreed agenda to drive research that will advance participation in outdoor recreation and education in Queensland. This could include research into, for example, the economic and social contribution of the sector to the Queensland economy and lifestyle; the extent, nature and demand for outdoor participation; a review of current provision of outdoor spaces & activities; constraints to participation; social, physical and community benefits of outdoor recreation/education participation.**

The Bligh Labor Government recently committed \$15,000 to QORF for the purpose of research on the economic and social value of the outdoor recreation sector in Queensland. An equal amount was provided to QSport for the purpose of research on the value of sport to Queensland.

The Bligh Labor Government will continue to work with QORF to identify further research opportunities.

**State Government commitment to maintaining at least the same level of funding support for outdoor recreation organisations through programs such as the State Sport and Recreation Organisation Development Program, enhanced by CPI increases.**

The Bligh Government is proud to provide significantly more funding for state sport and recreation organisations than other states and territories, and is committed to honouring the current agreements under the State Sport and Recreation Organisation Development Program (SRDP), including CPI increases.

The SRDP will continue to be maintained as a competitive program to ensure Queensland has a strong and viable sport and recreation sector that encourages greater participation opportunities for all Queenslanders.

A re-elected Bligh Labor Government will also honour the existing funding agreement for QORF as the peak body for the outdoor recreation sector in Queensland, and invite them to reapply to maintain their representation of this valuable sector.



**Further develop and implement recommendations from the SEQ Outdoor Recreation Strategy, and widen the application where applicable on a state-wide basis.**

The Queensland Labor Government released the South East Queensland Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2010 and the companion Queensland Outdoor Recreation Strategic Framework 2010 to guide outdoor recreation policy, planning and management to increase and to manage outdoor recreation opportunities for safety, sustainability, user satisfaction and compliance with relevant laws.

This included the establishment of a working group to implement the South East Queensland Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2010, chaired by the Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation and has representatives from South East Queensland local governments and key State agencies.

A re-elected Labor Government in Queensland will continue to manage and coordinate the implementation of the target delivery plan for the Toward Q2 Tomorrow's Queensland Green target - a 50 per cent increase in the area of land for nature conservation and public recreation by 2020. Increases in the area of land for both the nature conservation and public recreation components of this target are providing more places for outdoor recreation.

In 2010-2011 approximately 10 000 hectares was added to the Queensland Government's Statewide register of land for public recreation.

**A commitment to enabling and promoting achievement of affordable, accessible sector training throughout all of Queensland.**

The Bligh Labor Government, through Skills Queensland, has committed \$250 000 in 2011-12 to the Fitness, Sport and Recreation Skills Alliance as the Industry Skills Body (ISB) to provide advice on skills and workforce development needs of the sport and recreation sectors.

Under the Natural Disasters Jobs and Skills Package, a Jobs and Skills Development Officer position has been funded by Skills Queensland and hosted by the Fitness, Sport and Recreation Skills Alliance.

Also under the Natural Disasters Jobs and Skills Package, numerous Green Army projects have been implemented rebuilding damaged sporting and recreation facilities and infrastructure.

Skills Queensland is currently developing an agreement with the Fitness, Sport and Recreation Skills Alliance for the allocation of \$600,000 from the Strategic Investment Fund for the provision of training including training in Outdoor Recreation.

The Fitness Sport and Recreation Skills Alliance and the Queensland Tourism Industry Council (as the ISB for Tourism) are working co-operatively with a view to developing a dual qualification in Outdoor Recreation and Tourism specifically for workers in the Adventure Tourism sector.

**Establish government policy that enables and supports private landowners to share their land/water for outdoor recreation activities without prohibitive costs or risks. This may include land holder incentives, planning scheme provisions etc.**

Through the *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland* strategy research has been undertaken to identify matters affecting the provision of land for public recreation, including investigating incentives to encourage private land owners to allow public access to their land for recreation purposes. This work will continue under a re-elected Bligh Labor Government.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Fraser', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

**ANDREW FRASER MP  
DEPUTY PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND**