



Cameron Dick

Doing What Matters for Queensland



Mr Dom Courtney
Executive Officer
Outdoors Queensland

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Dear Mr Courtney

Thank you for your letter providing the Miles Labor Government with Outdoors Queensland State Election Priorities Statement.

Our Labor Government led by new Premier Steven Miles has delivered historic cost of living relief for all Queenslanders. By making multinational mining companies pay their fair share we have delivered \$1,300 off every Queenslanders' power bill, 50 cent public transport fares, cutting rego by 20%, free Kindy, free TAFE, we banned rent bidding, cut stamp duty for first home buyers and delivered \$200 FairPlay vouchers for all Queensland families to help with the cost of kids' sport.

We also have an ambitious plan for Queensland's future – more health workers and more hospitals, more schools, roads, public transport, projects to keep Queenslanders in jobs and a universal free school lunch program at State primary schools. We're building more homes for Queenslanders, delivering our nation-leading Energy and Jobs Plan to power our homes and economy with cheap firm renewable energy and we're acting on community safety with more police and crime prevention.

The Miles Labor Government recognises Outdoors Queensland as the peak industry body representing the interests of outdoor recreation users in Queensland. We acknowledge you work with the sector to promote outdoor activities and enhance the capacity and capability of operators who take people outdoors to learn, heal, play and live.

Since 2015, the Labor Government has provided more than \$4.66 million in funding directly to Outdoors Queensland, including:

- \$100,000 project under Active Industry Project Fund Super Round
- Support through the Active Industry Base Fund 2023-2025, \$250,000 per year for building and strengthening the capability of Outdoors Queensland to service current and emerging needs within the outdoor recreation sector resulting in improved participation

A number of the key actions detailed in the Outdoors Queensland statement are already being addressed by the Miles Labor Government through various programs, partnerships and initiatives, including:

- Providing active support through promotion and dedicated funding for outdoor activities, infrastructure and outdoor organisations, including support for Outdoors Queensland as the peak body for the outdoor sector in Queensland.
- Developing funding pathways for outdoor providers to develop cutting edge, sustainable programs and activities for getting Queenslanders outdoors.
- Connecting the outdoor sector with the health sector to focus on physical activity, addressing obesity, chronic disease prevention and mental health benefits.

- Developing and implementing additional government strategies regarding outdoor activities and transport, (including trail bike riding, four-wheel driving and boating).
- Contributing funding to the review of the Australian Adventure Activity Standard and associated Good Practice Guides.
- Supporting the Active Queenslanders Industry Alliance (AQIA) to develop and implement the annual active industry workforce action plans as part of the wider Active Industry Workforce Strategy.

Whilst “Recreation” is no longer included in the Departmental or Ministerial titles, the Sport and Recreation division retains the terminology and includes active recreation in all communication and media.

The Miles Labor Government is also partnering with the private sector, local government and First Nations peoples to deliver new market-led ecotourism products to position Queensland as an internationally celebrated ecotourism destination, guided by the Ecotourism Plan for Protected Areas and national park ecotourism development framework. The Queensland Ecotourism Trails Program is jointly delivered by the Department of Tourism and Sport and the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation.

The \$47.1 million Wangetti Trail, the signature Queensland Ecotourism Trails Program project, is a proposed 94 kilometre walking and mountain bike trail from Palm Cove to Port Douglas, providing both public and private accommodation, with the first 7km opened to the public last month.

Paluma to Wallaman Falls Trail is a proposed 127 kilometre walking and biking trail providing a link between Paluma, a village amongst the rainforest, and Wallaman Falls, Australia’s largest sheer drop waterfall. Cardwell Tropical Mountain Bike Network has delivered a trail head, pump track, bike wash and car parking. Further investment and the development of a feasibility study is seeking to deliver a mountain biking destination that would attract riders from across the country.

Through Queensland’s Protected Area Strategy 2020-2030 the Labor Government is committed to doubling Queensland protected areas estate to 17 per cent. In addition, the Government has previously set aside \$250 million over four years, held centrally, of which \$139.1 million remains across 2024-25 and 2025-26 for land acquisitions and capital works to support the Protected Area Strategy 2020-2030.

In 2024-25, the Miles Labor Government is investing nearly \$121 million of capital expenditure in our national parks and forests to deliver new land acquisitions, visitor infrastructure, management facilities, and plant and equipment to help manage, protect, and promote visitation to these areas. This includes:

- \$18.1 million for the purchase of additional fire vehicles, fire units and support equipment as well as upgrades to road and fireline networks and management infrastructure to support critical firefighter needs and bushfire risk, to improve community safety and safeguard natural and cultural values.
- \$5 million towards the construction of a new Girraween National Park Visitor Information Hub.
- \$3.5 million towards park infrastructure to support visitor recreation, management and access of the Quandamooka Country parks and recreation areas jointly managed with Traditional Owners on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) and Mulgumpin (Moreton Island).
- \$3.6 million to provide camping facilities and continued enhancements to the Ngaro track in the Whitsunday Islands National Park.
- \$1.8 million to upgrade and construct new nature-based visitor experiences and facilities along the Thorsborne trail on Hinchinbrook Island National Park.

- \$2.3 million to replace the Jindalba Boardwalk in Daintree National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land).
- \$1.2 million for an upgrade to the Nocturnal House, at David Fleay's Wildlife Park.

The Miles Labor Government has also committed \$3.2 million to upgrade campgrounds and facilitate commercial guided hiking opportunities along the Thorsborne Trail on Hinchinbrook Island National Park. The planned campground upgrades will considerably improve the camping experience for hikers and aims to separate Thorsborne Trail hikers from other user groups to retain the remote and wild nature experience. Works will include the construction of new toilet blocks to better cater for hikers with environmental surveys currently being undertaken to determine any necessary new requirements for campground layouts.

A re-elected Miles Labor Government looks forward to continuing this important work in partnership with Outdoors Queensland.

In contrast, David Crisafulli and the LNP have outlined no vision other than to cut – projects, jobs, essential services. Mr Crisafulli is a risk to Queensland, and he will cut what matters to Queenslanders, just like the LNP did last time when they slashed \$188 million from the tourism budget and cut 35 staff.

I would appreciate it if you could communicate our response with your members. Should the Miles Labor Government be re-elected, we look forward to continuing to work with you to continue to do what matters for Queensland.

Yours sincerely



CAMERON DICK MP
Deputy Premier
Treasurer
Minister for Trade and Investment

20 / 10 / 2024