



1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Department of Primary Industries  
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### Submission to Queensland Future Timber Plan 2050

Outdoors Queensland is the peak body for the outdoor sector in Queensland.

We represent outdoor organisations and individuals in Queensland, consisting of a range of outdoor industry stakeholders, covering the five broad pillars of outdoor activities:

- outdoor recreation,
- outdoor education,
- outdoor health,
- nature-based tourism, and
- associated support services.

The mission of Outdoors Queensland is to ensure that all people have opportunities to create connections with Queensland's outdoors. Our vision is to create a world where the outdoors is a vital part of every healthy life - a healthy world comes from a balanced life, incorporating outdoor activities for all people.

Outdoors Queensland serves as the industry peak body for the outdoor sector, with a focus on building capacity and capability of outdoor people and outdoor organisations to help all people make connections with Queensland's outdoors.

We believe that the Queensland Government strategies and high-level plans should encourage more Queenslanders to engage in outdoor activities and connect with Queensland's outdoors. This will mean that Queenslanders become healthier at a population-level, Queensland's economy would be healthier through avoided health costs and direct economic benefits (tourism and education), and Queensland's outdoor sector will continue to grow.

The forests that are used to produce timber are a significant outdoor asset for Queensland. Outdoor activities can and do occur alongside forestry and timber production. By taking advantage of the outdoor opportunities that occur in conjunction with forestry activities, Queensland's regional communities with significant forestry operations will be provided more opportunities to flourish.

Outdoors Queensland is pleased to provide feedback on the draft Queensland Timber Plan that has been released for public consultation. We appreciate having been provided the opportunity to engage with departmental representatives and attend the public webinar in the consultation process.

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Outdoors Queensland suggests that the final sentence of the Vision statement on page 22 of the draft Queensland Timber Plan could be improved by acknowledging that our communities need the environment, rather than just enjoying the environment, as follows:

Forests and timber products are economic generators the deliver our homes, our infrastructure, and the environment that our communities **need and** enjoy.

Outdoors Queensland suggests that Guiding Principle 7 on page 6 of the draft Queensland Timber Plan should be expanded to include a reference to outdoor activities, as follows:

Improve community confidence and trust in the forestry and timber industry by implementing an open and transparent approach that balances timber supply and the environment, **while supporting outdoor activities.**

Outdoors Queensland is pleased to note that tourism and recreation have been included in the activities listed under the heading “Coexistence” on page 11 of the draft Queensland Timber Plan, and we acknowledge the need for good management principles and practices for all activities.

Outdoors Queensland calls for permits for tourism, events and other associated activities on forestry land to be longer-term to provide increased investment certainty for all operators.

Outdoors Queensland further calls for the permit system to be aligned with other state lands, so that an event organiser does not need to jump through unnecessary red tape with different land managers to run an event on lands managed by different government departments.

Outdoors Queensland notes that the Queensland Government has recently released *Destination 2045: Delivering Queensland's Tourism Future*, which includes the following initiatives and activities relating to ecotourism:

- Initiative 1.1 - Streamline and simplify processes to facilitate and accelerate ecotourism growth in protected areas
- Initiative 1.2 – Enable one single permission for tourism operations on protected areas to streamline the permitting process for businesses.
- Initiative 1.7 – Work with First Nations peoples to support culture and Country and create access to valued tourism experiences.
- Initiative 1.9 – Boost agritourism with more farm stays and experiences, helping farmers diversify and improve on-farm profitability.

Outdoors Queensland supports these initiatives and the associated activities. We believe that there is an ideal opportunity to piggy-back on the actions in Destination 2045 by ensuring that the actions described apply equally to outdoor recreation, outdoor education and nature-based health, as they do to ecotourism, and ensuring that these initiatives apply to forestry land as well as the protected area estate. For the Queensland Future Timber Plan, the initiatives could become:



- Streamline and simplify processes to facilitate and accelerate growth of outdoor activities including ecotourism *on forestry land*.
- Enable one single permission for operations on State land (whether forestry land or protected areas) to streamline the permitting process for businesses *and other outdoor organisations* (would extend this measure to non-tourism organisations such as Scouts/Guides)
- Boost agritourism with more farm stays and experiences, helping farmers diversify and improve on-farm profitability, *while boosting investment in outdoor activities on private land*

Aligning the tourism component of the Queensland Future Timber Plan to Destination 2045 will ensure that these two government plans work together.

Outdoors Queensland calls for the Queensland government to work with local government, the timber industry and the outdoor industry to provide dedicated well-managed places for so-called “difficult-to-locate” activities in various regions across the state.

It is recognised that Queensland needs more dedicated places for “difficult-to-locate” activities, including trail bike riding, quad-bike riding, four-wheel driving, hunting and shooting.

These activities can be difficult to locate due to noise or other impacts or safety requirements associated with the activities. State and local governments have done planning for these types of activities, however there is no clear solution provided to move them from difficult-to-locate to attractive activities for locals and tourists alike, generating positive outcomes for our communities.

Although the draft Queensland Future Timber Plan provides significant statistics on current levels of timber production and expected future demand, it is completely bereft of data on the current levels and likely future demands of outdoor activities occurring in our forests. Outdoors Queensland calls for the Queensland Government to invest in research into outdoor activities across the breadth of the Queensland forestry estate, with a detailed stocktake of the current level of all different activities alongside clear pictures of demand as the population increases and tourism numbers grow. Outdoors Queensland would be pleased to be involved in this important research.

Queensland’s state forests present a currently untapped opportunity where tourism, outdoor activities and conservation can drive economic growth. Transitioning state forest land to conservation parks and establishing trail networks in appropriate areas could create outdoor recreation hubs and deliver ongoing tourism benefits for future generations.

Outdoors Queensland calls for the end to native timber harvesting and transition of State Forest land into conservation parks and national parks where appropriate, with dedicated funding to be allocated for the establishment and maintenance of visitor infrastructure. A key component of transition from State Forest to conservation park or national park will be establishing comprehensive management plans for the various parcels of land, and Outdoors Queensland would be pleased to assist in the community consultation processes required.



Outdoors Queensland looks forward to further involvement in this important process. We would be pleased to provide additional detail regarding elements of this submission. We understand that this submission may be published as part of the consultation process.

Outdoors Queensland looks forward to contributing to the implementation of the strategy. If you have any queries, please contact Executive Officer, Dom Courtney, on 0419 976 800 or [eo@outdoorsqueensland.com.au](mailto:eo@outdoorsqueensland.com.au).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dom Courtney', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dom Courtney  
Executive Officer / Company Secretary

