18th November 2026

Brisbane Sustainability Agency
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Submission regarding the Draft Mt Coot-tha Vision 2026-2046

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 and environmental education,
- outdoor health (including adventure therapy),
- outdoor tourism (adventure/ nature-based tourism), and
- associated support services (e.g. land and water management, infrastructure, sector training and development, other support services, retail sales).

The mission of Outdoors Queensland is to ensure that Queensland's outdoor sector is empowered, supported and valued. Our vision that everyone can enjoy the health and well-being benefits of the outdoors through a thriving Queensland outdoor sector.

We are pleased to make a submission regarding the Draft Mt Coot-tha Vision 2026-2046. We note that the consultation process on the Draft Mt Coot-tha Vision 2026-2046 was primarily an invitation to complete a simple 10-minute online survey, however we believed our points could be better made via a written submission, and we trust that this submission will be considered alongside the completed surveys.

Outdoors Queensland supports the provision of a long-term framework to guide the major opportunities and directions that will help protect what people value most about Mt Coot-tha while planning for its future.

Outdoors Queensland notes the Lord Mayor's message on page 4 of the Draft Mt Coot-tha Vision 2026-2046, which states that "we have an opportunity to write an exciting new chapter for Mt Coot-tha, preserving everything that makes it special while creating even more for residents to see and do. … It's a 20-year vision to protect the natural beauty of this iconic destination, breathe new life into much-loved spaces and create new experiences for future generations to enjoy."

We appreciate the opportunity to represent Queensland's outdoor industry and contribute as one of the 40 organisations that attended the Mt Coot-tha Community Reference Group workshops that were held as part of this process.

Outdoors Queensland acknowledges the common themes identified during the community engagement that are set out on page 29 of the Draft Mt Coot-tha Vision 2026-2046, as follows:

Nature comes first	A balanced approach to future opportunities
Build on what is already loved	Better access and connections
Celebrating culture and heritage	A place for everyone
Enhancing the experiences	Nature and wellbeing

We appreciate that these common themes have been incorporated and prioritised in the creation of the Draft Mt Coot-tha Vision 2026-2046.

The timeline set out on page 13 of the Draft Mt Coot-tha Vision 2026-2046 indicates that in 1880, within 20 years of Queensland's formal separation from New South Wales, land at Mt Coot-tha was formally put aside as a Recreation Reserve for public recreation, health and enjoyment. We note that in 1883, this reserve was renamed from One Tree Hill to its traditional name, Mt Coot-tha, only three years after its gazettal.

The period covered by the Draft Mt Coot-tha Vision 2026-2046 will include the 150th anniversary of the gazettal of this place as a reserve for public recreation, health and enjoyment. Outdoors Queensland suggests that this milestone should be celebrated in 2030 by prioritising significant improvements to walking, cycling and visitor experiences, trail networks, and picnic areas, putting into effect the words of the Lord Mayor's message about breathing new life into much-loved spaces.

Outdoors Queensland acknowledges that in addition to its recreation values, Mt Coot-tha Forest Reserve has important secondary uses, including conservation and tourism.

We support the statements regarding Recreation and wellbeing on pages 20 and 21, however we suggest this section should be elevated to pages 16 and 17, in recognition of the prominence of outdoor activities at Mt Coot-tha.

Despite the fact that Mt Coot-tha is primarily a recreation reserve, the proposed vision set out on page 32 of the Draft Mt Coot-tha Vision 2026-2046 does not include the word "recreation". We understand that recreation may be included in cultural significance, however for a place like Mt Coot-tha, where recreation is the reason the reserve was created and continues to be the reason it is loved by residents and visitors, we submit this vision statement should be amended to overtly include "recreation". For example:

> *"Mt Coot-tha will remain an iconic Brisbane landmark, valued for its unique* ***recreation****, environmental and cultural significance. As Brisbane grows, it will continue to be a place that connects people to nature close to the city."*

Outdoors Queensland supports the five goals set out on page 34-35 of the Draft Mt Coot-tha Vision 2026-2046:

- Celebrate Mt Coot-tha as a Brisbane icon
- Protect and restore the natural environment
- Support recreation and wellbeing
- Strengthen learning, culture and discovery
- Create a connected, accessible and welcoming place

In relation to the goal "Support recreation and wellbeing", Outdoors Queensland strongly supports the statement that "Mt Coot-tha provides diverse ways for people to be active, spend time outdoors and connect with nature."

However, the wording of the third dot point under the "Support recreation and wellbeing" goal is problematic. Stating that "Recreation is balanced with the protection of natural and cultural values" is positioning recreation as being at odds with natural and cultural values. Strangely, none of the other stated goals present balances between different values, and this presentation suggests that recreation is at best a secondary use, regardless of the purpose of this reserve.

If managed well, recreation is complementary to the protection of natural and cultural values, and forms part of the protection of natural and cultural values by providing people with positive experiences and creating advocates for nature and culture. The wording of this third dot point should be updated to embrace the complementary aspects of well-managed recreation and nature, moving away from the outdated positioning of recreation and nature as being at odds. We suggest this could be as simple as changing the dot point to "Recreation is a key part of the protection of natural and cultural values."

Outdoors Queensland supports the points set out on page 40 under the heading "Elevate the trail experience". We suggest that it is not necessary to include the words "where terrain and environmental conditions allow" in the strategic priority regarding expanding accessible and inclusive trail experiences.

We support the points set out on page 42 under the heading "Renew picnic areas", although we suggest that the second key initiative regarding expanding nature play activities at popular destinations is not required. We suggest that the entire Mt Coot-tha precinct, including its picnic areas, should be considered a big nature playground, and it is preferable to allow free reign for play, rather than seeking to create/construct nature play opportunities.

Outdoors Queensland supports the points set out on page 46 under the heading "Establish a Mt Coot-tha Arrival Hub", and we applaud the integration of the different values within the proposed arrival hub.

Outdoors Queensland supports the proposed long-term transition of the Mt Coot-tha Quarry into a significant new parkland for Brisbane. Once the quarry operations cease, this location has potential to become an amazing asset for Brisbane. The information provided on pages 52/53 states that delivery of the Quarry Parklands is a long-term proposition. We note that images provided on pages 52/53 showing how the site could support a mix of different experiences include swimming and

the use of paddlecraft in what appears to be a significant artificial waterbody. Outdoors Queensland supports the inclusion of a wide range of outdoor activities, however it must be considered that there could be significant water quality issues associated with this location.

Outdoors Queensland strongly supports the focus given to “Movement and access” on pages 56/57 and “Community and connection” on pages 58/59.

Outdoors Queensland strongly supports the statements relating to “Sustainability” on page 60, particularly the “commitment to protecting, enhancing and sustaining Mt Coot-tha for future generations. We would expect nothing less from a plan drafted by the Brisbane Sustainability Agency.

As noted above, we suggest that some of the delivery timelines provided on page 65 should be adjusted to ensure delivery of community outcomes to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the official gazettal of Mt Coot-tha.

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. If you have any queries, please contact Executive Officer, Dom Courtney, on 0419 976 800 or eo@outdoorsqueensland.com.au.

Yours sincerely,



Dom Courtney
Executive Officer / Company Secretary