



Draft Queensland Greenspace Strategy for public comment

Protecting our lifestyle, environment and places to play

Securing 50 per cent more land for public recreation by 2020.

Through the Queensland Greenspace Strategy the Queensland Government will:

1. promote additional green space
2. introduce better planning processes, tools and instruments to increase green space
3. remove arbitrary barriers that limit public access to state-owned land
4. encourage recreation opportunities on private land
5. investigate the potential to use surplus state-owned land as green space

Disclaimer

Note: The draft Queensland Greenspace Strategy is not government policy. The implementation of the initiatives contained in the discussion paper is subject to the usual state government approval and budget processes.

March 2010



Foreword

In September 2008, the Queensland Government released its vision for the future, *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland*, which establishes five ambitions and ten targets for a stronger, greener, smarter, healthier and fairer Queensland by 2020. The green ambition makes a commitment to achieve a statewide target to protect 50 per cent more land for nature conservation and public recreation by 2020.

Queensland enjoys a wealth of natural riches—a warm climate, beautiful beaches, parks, rivers, reefs and rainforests and stunning outback scenery. The beauty of our environment has made us a highly sought-after destination to work, live and play.

Our unique natural environment has more native plants and animals than anywhere else in Australia with almost half the species living in Queensland found nowhere else in the world. But there are big challenges now and on the horizon—our environment and lifestyles are under increasing pressure from the effects of our growing population and climate change.

A lot depends on ensuring the growing population of Queensland has adequate high quality green space and places to play, near to where people live. No part of the public realm is so important to such a wide range of people.

Sometimes we fail to appreciate the value of these public places for our health and well-being but green space is fundamental to ensuring we have sustainable and vibrant communities. Quality green space for public recreation is invaluable in contributing to our goal for Queenslanders to become Australia's healthiest people by 2020. Green space is vital for protecting our native wildlife and fragile ecosystems.

Green space also facilitates our goal of increased volunteerism, through, for example the landcare movement. Landcare is associated with voluntary programs including bushcare programs which are active in green space areas through to the volunteers in local clubs who train and skill young players for a healthy and socially responsible life in the future.

We must also continue to retain and protect our valuable green spaces between neighbourhoods and regions that frame our built environment and protect these areas that sustain our lifestyle. Attractive, safe and accessible green space contributes positive social, economic and environmental benefits, improving public health, well-being and quality of life. Green space is a vital part of delivering a sustainable and prosperous state.

Growth management is significant challenge with the rapid pace of urban development particularly in South East Queensland. The pressure from our growing population brings with it the greatest global challenge of our time—climate change.

As our population increases we must retain green space for nature conservation and public recreation—our unique lifestyle depends on it.

Anna Bligh MP
Premier and Minister for the Arts

Stirling Hinchliffe MP
Minister for Infrastructure and Planning



Introduction

Maintaining adequate green space for a region is integral to the region’s liveability and is a practice that is being undertaken by many governments in many different cities around the globe. As one of Australia’s fastest-growing states, Queensland needs a contemporary system of planning that is responsive to change and continues to deliver the lifestyle for which we are famous.

Queensland’s population is projected to grow from 4 million people in 2006 to 5.6 million in 2026, and to reach 7.1 million in 2051. South East Queensland is expected to increase from 2.8 million in 2006 to 4.4 million in 2031.

This is an increase of 1.6 million people or almost 60 per cent more than the 2006 population and will result in dramatic increases in demand for a wide range of infrastructure including the need for green space.

What is the Queensland Greenspace Strategy?

The Queensland Greenspace Strategy supports delivery of the government’s Toward Q2: Tomorrow’s Queensland statewide target of protecting 50 per cent more land for nature conservation and public recreation by 2020 in line with the strategic directions and vision for our state.

Green space represents those places where people play, recreate and socialise. It includes, council parks, public gardens, playing fields, children’s play areas, foreshore areas, bushland and linear reserves, national parks, state forests and conservation reserves. The definition excludes roads and marine areas.

While we have a comprehensive Queensland-wide picture of protected areas, information on green space such as

Recent examples of the Queensland’s Government’s achievements in green space.

Land for public recreation	Land for nature conservation
Brisbane Valley Rail Trail	Bania National Park (Southern Queensland)
Kangaroo Point Park	Bulburin National Park (Central Coast Region)
Northshore Riverside Park (Hamilton)	Grongah National Park (Southern Queensland)
Rockhampton Riverbank Park	Kulla National Park (Cape York Peninsula)
Roma Street Parklands	Kuranda National Park (North Queensland)
South Bank Parklands	Lama Lama National Park (Cape York Peninsula)
Springfield Central Parklands	Mount Lewis National Park (North Queensland)
Tyto Parklands (Ingham)	Mount Windsor National Park (North Queensland)

parks, playing fields, walking and horse riding trails is held by different levels of government. The strategy therefore focuses on the expansion of land for public recreation where public accessibility and use are the priority rather than the biodiversity values.

The strategy delivers on the commitment to protect 50 per cent more land for public recreation by introducing better planning processes, investigating the potential to use surplus state-owned land as green space, designating additional green space in urban areas, removing arbitrary barriers that limit public access to state-owned land and encouraging recreation opportunities on private land.⁽ⁱ⁾

The Queensland Government is already playing its part by:

- protecting green space as part of regional planning processes throughout the state
- providing recreational facilities to enable Queenslanders and visitors to experience our great outdoors

- developing a full statewide inventory of all land held for public recreation
- developing a regional trails network

Why we need a Queensland Greenspace Strategy

Queensland is one of Australia’s fastest growing states. In major growth areas an increasing population is placing pressure on the availability and accessibility of green space. The Queensland Greenspace Strategy will provide a framework for the establishment of an integrated high quality green space network to meet the needs of the communities in growth areas across Queensland.

The strategy seeks to expand the existing green space and complement state and local government assets through the potential for a range of outdoor recreation activities such as camping, bushwalking, horse riding, mountain bike riding, trail bike riding and four-wheel driving to be provided on suitable privately owned rural land with the express approval of the landowner.

⁽ⁱ⁾ The Queensland Greenspace Strategy will include private land, where the owner’s voluntary consent is obtained. Some freehold land is already managed land for recreation and tourism purposes including golf courses, four-wheel drive parks, horse riding and camping areas and caravan parks. These private lands are important for meeting the community’s need for green space.

Five key planning actions have been identified to help secure 50 per cent more of Queensland's land for public recreation by 2020. These proposed actions are:

1. promote additional green space
2. introduce better planning processes, tools and instruments to increase green space
3. remove arbitrary barriers that limit public access to state-owned land
4. encourage recreation opportunities on private land
5. investigate the potential to use surplus state-owned land as green space

Initially, the strategy will focus action in South East Queensland in recognition of the continuing high population growth and because it has a shortfall in land available for public recreation compared to other capital cities and inequity of access to green space from major centres. South East Queensland has only about 19 per cent of public green space compared with 49 per cent for the Greater Sydney region.

Currently green space is concentrated to the north of Brisbane River, however, by 2026, almost 60 per cent of South East Queensland's population will live south of the Brisbane River and in the western corridor. A minimum of 2000 ha of additional green space in this area will be required per year to accommodate growth. We need to match the planning for new green space with future settlement patterns identified in the statutory regional plans. Access to green space will be through additions like new local and regional parks, regional trails, surplus state-owned land and after hours access of school playing fields. Green space planning for other regions will be rolled out, hand-in-hand with the state's commitment to develop statutory regional plans.

In South East Queensland, most of the existing green space is owned and managed by state or local government and includes state forests, regional parks, recreation trails and the wide range of urban parks. National parks and other protected areas also provide passive outdoor recreation opportunities consistent with their primary objective of

nature conservation. The expansion of green space contributes to a wide range of outcomes including biodiversity and conservation goals, such as sustaining tree communities critical to our threatened koalas. From the lush rainforests, ancient trees and natural beauty of the World Heritage-listed Lamington National Park to the local urban park with swings and fitness facilities—the diversity of green space is as wide-ranging as the community which needs and uses it.

Draft action 1: Promote additional green space

Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland establishes targets for environment and lifestyle, economy, education and skills, health and community. The green ambition makes a commitment to achieve a statewide target to protect 50 per cent more land for nature conservation and public recreation by 2020.

In SEQ, the baseline area of land for public recreation is 81 000 hectares. Given the statewide Q2 Target, this translates to an increase of up to 40 000 hectares over ten years. Across Queensland, the total baseline area of land for public recreation is currently being determined.

A green space network, will ensure we protect current green space and ensure adequate green space for future generations, based on population projections for each region.

The Queensland Greenspace Strategy will deliver a green space network which includes:

- parks for outdoor/public recreation activities needing large areas
- expansion of the existing regional trails program
- corridors which link parcels of existing green space
- parks to serve the needs of local neighbourhoods

The strategy's approach is to provide a strategic land planning framework based on a defined preferred future regional and community green space network which includes new regional parks, regional trails



Kurilpa Park, West End, Brisbane.

and linear reserves. This will be based on population projections for each region and will ensure we protect current green space and provide adequate green space for future generations. The state government will:

- partner with local governments and government-owned corporations
- mandate parkland in all new developments
- identify opportunities to acquire more land for green space as funding becomes available

Draft action 2: Introduce better planning processes, tools and instruments to increase green space

There are many levels of legislative and statutory planning that identify the need for green space, but we must ensure detailed consideration of the provision for green space outcomes in planning processes.

It is vital that future urban developments are planned to provide for adequate green space especially in areas of increased population and density. In response to the changing urban environment we need to protect green space for our lifestyle and environment to ensure we have

places to play. Developments must ensure appropriate infill measures are put in place to support green space development.

The government will research and determine the level of green space required based on housing density and land use types. This green space allocation will form part of future Greenspace Network Plans. These plans will support effective green space by quantifying green space needs in terms of size, quality, proximity and diversity of green space.

The government, in consultation with the community, will evaluate the appropriate regulatory instrument under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* to ensure Greenspace Network Plans are considered in planning and development assessment for major new urban areas.

The *SEQ Regional Plan 2009-2031* requires the definition, identification and mapping of a preferred future regional community green space network for South East Queensland. The Queensland Greenspace Strategy will deliver on this SEQ Greenspace Network Plan by 2011. The community will be engaged in the development of the plan.

The Queensland Coordinator-General has the ability to incorporate and deliver green space as part of major developments under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* and has already provided for public recreation as part of the Coordinator-General's Report for Wyaralong Dam.

Draft action 3: Remove arbitrary barriers that limit public access to state-owned land

Most of the state-owned green space is set aside for nature conservation (i.e. national parks), timber production (i.e. state plantation forests) or water catchments surrounding major dams. These areas provide a wide range of recreation settings and are heavily used year round.

A register of all government land will be developed and maintained to enable comprehensive consideration for the allocation of new green space. The register would include all government land owned by government corporations, government departments and other agencies. The Government Land Register will be used to



A place to play in Bundaberg (photo by MWAViewfinder.com.au)

evaluate opportunities and provide a basis for future planning for green space.

State and local government-owned land provides the essential core of an effective green space network yet its contribution is not well documented. Better understanding of the location of suitable government-owned land and potential for recreational uses is an essential starting point. This will enable planners to identify gaps and opportunities for more effective use.

One such opportunity may lie in the increased use of school playing fields. The government will pilot a program to assess after hours access to school playing fields by community organisations. The pilot program will include existing state school ovals which are currently available to the public and will evaluate different access models in a small number of schools. The pilot will recognise existing school requirements and consider access for funded and non-funded community organisations. Any funds from the use of school playing fields will be retained by the individual school.

Draft action 4: Encourage recreation opportunities on private land

There is potential for a range of outdoor recreation activities such as camping, bushwalking, horse riding, mountain bike riding, trail bike riding and four-wheel driving

to be provided on suitable privately-owned land with the approval of the landowner and any necessary planning and other approvals. This would offer the dual benefits of providing increased recreational opportunities for the regional population, an additional and diversified source of income for landowners and flow-on benefits to communities.

Opportunities include providing guidance to the private sector to plan and develop facilities and to help ensure sustainable management of private green space.

The government is seeking Q2 partners (organisations or corporations) such as universities that will assist in providing additional green space.

Draft action 5: Investigate the potential to use surplus state-owned land as green space

Surplus state-owned land in high growth urban areas will be assessed for its value as green space and its potential to contribute to a parks network.

The government will investigate green space allocation in major government infrastructure programs including linkages to existing green space networks. For example, a new gas or water pipeline corridor may provide a recreational trail and connectivity between towns and other green space networks.

Submission form

Draft Queensland Greenspace Strategy

Protecting our lifestyle, environment and places to play

Closing date for submissions:

7 May 2010

All Queenslanders are invited to have their say on the government's Draft Queensland Greenspace Strategy

The draft strategy contains proposed planning actions for securing 50 per cent more of Queensland's land for public recreation by 2020.

We would like you to tell us how you think these draft actions should be prioritised and whether there are any additional actions that should be considered.

For more information, go to www.dip.qld.gov.au/greenspace

Share your views

Your responses and suggestions will help the Queensland Government determine the priority actions in the final Queensland Greenspace Strategy.

You are welcome to use this form to respond or to use it as a cover sheet and attach it to a more detailed response.

Responses must:

- be made by 5pm on Friday 7 May 2010
- include the name and address of the respondent
- be a structured response under the headings of the supplied submission form.

Forward your response to:

Post:

Draft Queensland Greenspace Strategy feedback
Resource and Landscape Planning
Department of Infrastructure and Planning
PO Box 15009
City East Queensland 4002

Fax: +61 7 3237 1812

Email: greenspace@dip.qld.gov.au

Draft actions

Please rate the following draft actions according to their priority for implementation. You are also invited to suggest additional planning actions you believe the Queensland Government should also consider.

In the boxes below mark your priority with an 'X'

	Priority					
	Very low	Low	Medium	High	Very high	Unsure
Draft action 1. Promote additional green space	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Draft action 2. Introduce better planning processes, tools and instruments to increase green space	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Draft action 2.1. How do you rate using Greenspace Network Plans for achieving Draft action 2	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Draft action 2.2. How do you rate introducing legislative changes for achieving Draft action 2	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Draft action 3. Remove arbitrary barriers that limit public access to state-owned land	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Draft action 3.1 How do you rate establishing a register of all government land for achieving Draft action 3	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Draft action 3.2 How do you rate setting up a pilot project allowing public access by community organisations to school playing fields after hours for achieving Draft action 3	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Draft action 4. Encourage recreation opportunities on private land	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Draft action 5. Investigate the potential to use surplus state-owned land as green space	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Would you and members of your community be willing to pay for maintaining your local green space?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Would you and members of your community be willing to volunteer to maintain your local green space?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

If you have any additional suggested planning actions to secure more land for public recreation please write them down in the space below or attach more pages:



Some information about you:

Mandatory fields are indicated with an asterisk (*).

*Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Dr/other)	*First name	*Surname	
*Address			
*City / Suburb		*State	*Postcode
Email		Phone	
Signature		Date	

Does this response represent:

Your personal views or An organisation's views

If this response is on behalf of an organisation, what is your position and the name of your organisation?

Position	Organisation
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What sector does your organisation represent? (Please check one box only.)

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local government | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental / conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Queensland government | <input type="checkbox"/> Landcare or natural resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australian government | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural production | <input type="checkbox"/> Local community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research institution | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Urban development | <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce / economic development | _____ |

If this response represents your personal views, what type of area do you live in?

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inner city | <input type="checkbox"/> Suburb in a city or major centre | <input type="checkbox"/> A smaller town or regional centre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural residential area | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural or bushland area | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Privacy statement

Your personal information collected on this submission form will be maintained in accordance with Queensland Government policy (Information Standard 42—Information Privacy) as well as the *Public Records Act 2002*. Your submission may be provided to other agencies for comment during the drafting of the Greenspace Strategy Your personal information will not be provided to any other party without your consent or as authorised by law.

If you have any inquiries about privacy, please contact the Privacy Contact Officer on +61 7 3225 8463.

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE



Walking track in Atherton Tablelands

When will the Queensland Government deliver on these promises?

The initial focus of the strategy is in South East Queensland in recognition of the continuing high population growth and shortfall in land available for public recreation, but will be expanded to other high growth urban areas across the state.

By the end of 2010, the Queensland Government will:

- deliver a statewide inventory of land available for public recreation
- finalise recreation planning for the Wyaralong Dam Precinct.

By the end of 2011, the government will:

- pilot a program to assess after hours access to school playing fields
- complete the SEQ Greenspace Network Plan

By the end of 2012, the government will:

- expand the existing regional trails program
- encourage opportunities for recreation on private land
- allocate green space in major government infrastructure programs.

By the end of 2020, the government will:

- protect 50 per cent more green space for public recreation.

Have your say on this discussion paper

All Queenslanders are invited to have their say on the Queensland Government's Draft Greenspace Strategy. We would like you to tell us what you think about the draft actions and whether there are any additional actions that should be considered. Your submission will help the Queensland Government determine the priority actions in the final Greenspace Strategy.

You can send your responses to the address below or complete the submission form attached or use the online form on the web site at www.dip.qld.gov/greenspace. Submissions close at **5pm on Friday 7 May**.

Send submissions to:

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Parkland at Boonah