



INTER-URBAN BREAK
OUTDOOR
RECREATION
PLAN

December 2019

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First Nation Peoples connectivity to lands and waters within the Inter Urban Break holds millennia-old spiritual connections, traditional laws and customs, stories, and ways of life important to the protection, use and presentation of the area and outdoor recreation approaches.

Our ongoing partnerships with the Jinibara Peoples and Kabi Kabi First Nation Peoples recognise, respect and engage the right people for Country, traditional and contemporary knowledge systems, and the continual exercising of cultural and customary activities.

The Inter-Urban Break Outdoor Recreation Plan was commissioned by Sunshine Coast Council with contributory funding from the Queensland Government's Department of Housing and Public Works – Sport and Recreation.

The Inter-Urban Break Outdoor Recreation Plan Project has been a collaborative approach undertaken by a Management Team with members from Sunshine Coast Council, Department of Environment and Science, Moreton Bay Regional Council, HQPlantations and Queensland Government's Department of Housing and Public Works – Sport and Recreation.

This document has been strengthened by input from various state agencies, community recreation organisations and private landowners and managers. We would like to acknowledge the contribution made by all those who gave their time towards the development of this strategy.

FUNDING ORGANISATIONS



**Queensland
Government**



PROJECT PARTNERS



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01 SETTING THE SCENE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Inter-Urban Break Outdoor Recreation Plan (the 'Plan') is a collaborative approach to planning for outdoor recreation by Sunshine Coast Council working in partnership with Queensland Government's Department of Housing and Public Works – Sport and Recreation, HQPlantations, Department of Environment and Science (including Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships) and Moreton Bay Regional Council.

The purpose of the Plan is to guide outdoor recreation across all public land within the area referred to as the Inter-Urban Break Outdoor Recreation Plan Study Area (IUB) (refer Figure 1), which generally aligns with the Northern Inter-Urban Break in the South East Queensland Regional Plan 2017.

WHAT IS THE IUB?

The IUB is a 63,303 ha regionally significant non-urban area (38,553 ha of which is public land), located between the Sunshine Coast and northern Moreton Bay regions which helps to retain the separate identities of the existing and emerging areas to the north and south.

The IUB includes a diverse range of landscapes, with over half (61%) of the area designated as national park, conservation park, reserve, State forest or forest reserve, which includes State forest licensed from the Queensland Government for timber production. The IUB is unique in the extent of interconnected public land that is available for recreation.

The IUB is a major destination for outdoor recreation due to its internationally recognised and iconic landscapes, strong sense of place, dominance of non-urban land uses and proximity to the major urban centres of South East Queensland.

DEFINING OUTDOOR RECREATION IN THE IUB

For the purposes of this Plan, outdoor recreation refers to any *'physical activity in outdoors or natural settings, which provides opportunities to connect individually, in small groups or as a community to the outdoor environment'* (QORF, 2019).

There are a broad variety of outdoor recreation activities currently identified as being undertaken in the IUB, including some that are unlawful or undesired and others that are lawful and only desired on certain public lands. This Plan focuses on lawful activities that are both supported and occur on public land within the IUB that are compatible with the core values of the area. This includes 23 land and nature-based recreation activities (including the likes of bushwalking, horse riding and mountain biking), two land-based motorised recreation activities (4WDing and trail bike riding), 13 non-motorised water-based activities (including the likes of fishing, canoeing and swimming) and two motorised water-based activities (boating and jetskiing).

WHY DO WE NEED AN OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN?

As populations grow, the importance of providing access to quality outdoor recreation experiences becomes paramount to maintaining healthy and active communities. The Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay regions are estimated to grow by nearly 350,000 people by 2036, with the SEQ region as a whole anticipated to reach five million residents at this time.

This will result in increasing demand for recreation that creates both a challenge and opportunity to effectively manage and deliver high quality land and water-based recreation opportunities that protect existing values and, over the longer-term, ensure that the IUB is valued and protected as a non-urban area.

The Plan will guide the planning and coordination of infrastructure delivery for outdoor recreation activities in a collaborative approach between the multiple public land managers. By effectively planning for outdoor recreation activities, land managers will be able to collaboratively work towards protecting the unique assets of the landscape while allowing the growing population of South East Queensland access to a broad spectrum of high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities.



View towards Mount Coonowrin and Mount Beerwah, Image: Lat27

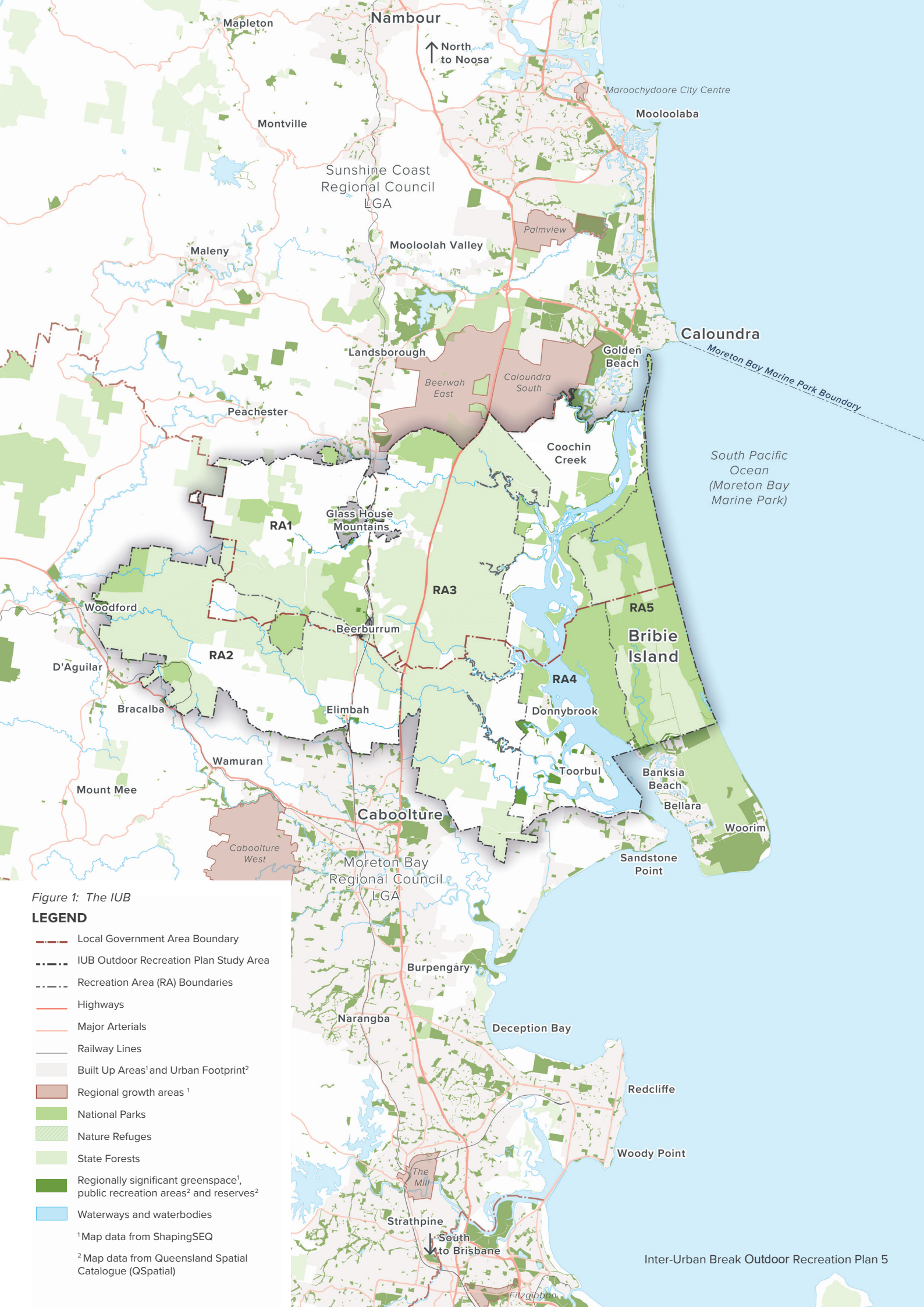


Figure 1: The IUB

LEGEND

- Local Government Area Boundary
 - IUB Outdoor Recreation Plan Study Area
 - Recreation Area (RA) Boundaries
 - Highways
 - Major Arterials
 - Railway Lines
 - Built Up Areas¹ and Urban Footprint²
 - Regional growth areas¹
 - National Parks
 - Nature Refuges
 - State Forests
 - Regionally significant greenspace¹, public recreation areas² and reserves²
 - Waterways and waterbodies
- ¹ Map data from ShapingSEQ
- ² Map data from Queensland Spatial Catalogue (QSpatial)

KEY VALUES OF THE IUB

The IUB includes a diverse range of landscapes including the iconic Glass House Mountains, scenic Ramsar-protected wetlands of the Pumicestone Passage, sandy beaches of Bribie Island as well as a range of forested and agricultural landscapes.

Due to its intrinsic values, the IUB is of immense importance to the SEQ region, in particular as a tourism and recreation destination. The key values of the IUB, from an outdoor recreation perspective, are illustrated below.

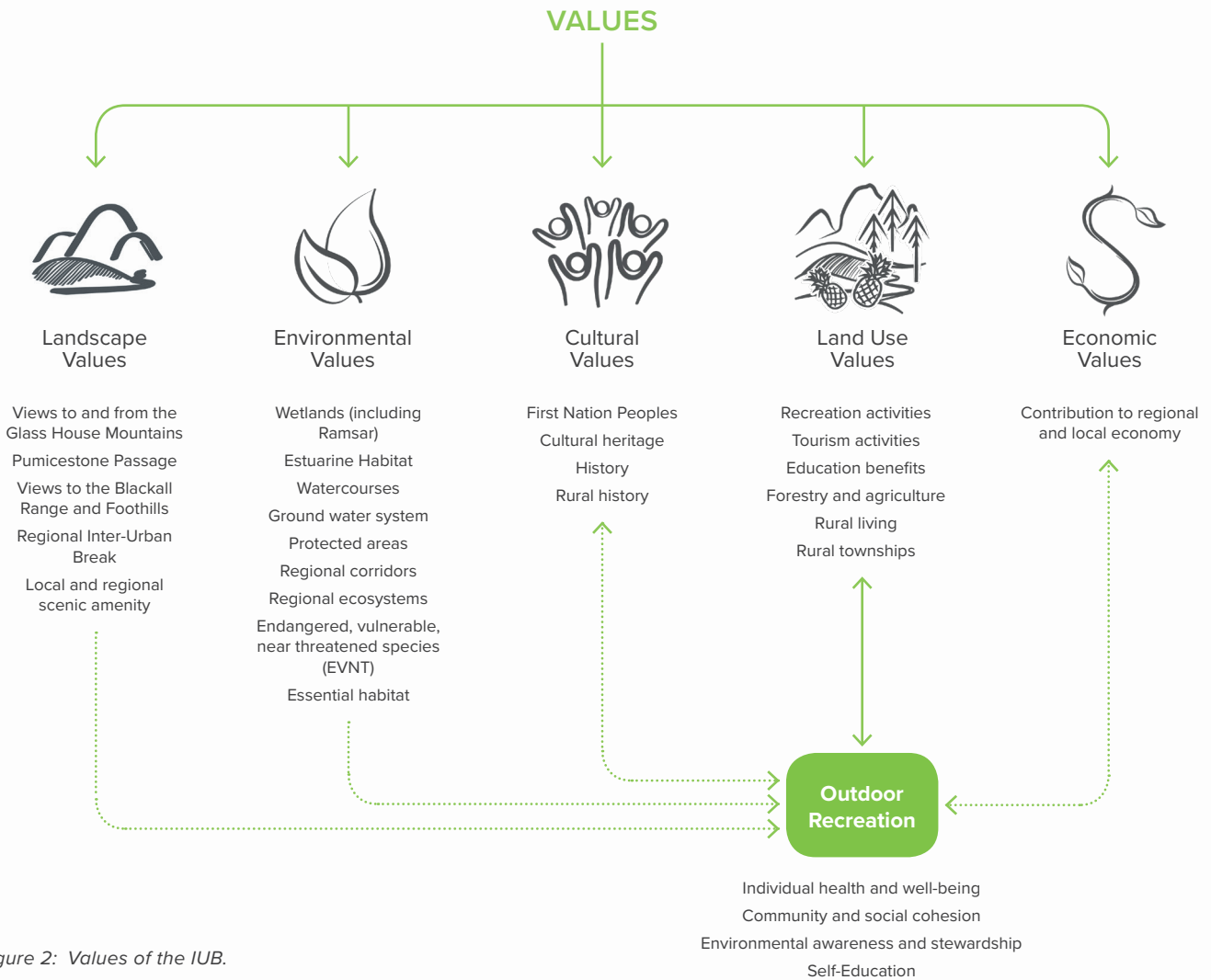


Figure 2: Values of the IUB.

HOW DO WE PROTECT THE UNIQUE PLACE VALUES OF THE IUB?

Increases in population due to ongoing development pressure to the north and south of the IUB (as well as within the greater SEQ region) mean that there is an increased risk of detrimental impacts on the unique values of the IUB, in particular those associated with the Pumicestone Passage and Glass House Mountains. These natural assets and cultural landscapes are vital to the success of recreation within the IUB, as they provide the setting for quality recreation and tourist experiences. It is therefore critical that public land managers within the IUB work together with the Jinibara Peoples, Kabi Kabi First Nation Peoples, local community and State and Federal Governments to protect these unique assets and their associated values, to ensure long term access to a broad spectrum of high-quality outdoor recreation activities.

This Plan is an important tool to guide the sustainable management of recreation across all tenures, thereby contributing towards the maintenance of existing values of the area.

QUICK FACTS

The IUB includes

11,108 ha

of national park including the Glass House Mountains National Park and Moreton Bay Marine Park

27,040 ha

of State forest

93%

of which is managed for timber by HQPlantations

10,358 ha

of wetlands which are recognised under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar wetlands)

Within the IUB, there are

5

endangered remnant regional ecosystems (RE)

Significant cultural heritage places and landscapes important to Australia's First Nation Peoples

In 2014, it was estimated that the value of recreation within the IUB was

\$8 Million

per annum

OUTDOOR RECREATION IN THE IUB

The IUB is home to a multitude of outdoor recreation activities, facilitated by the features of the natural environment, diversity of spaces not found elsewhere, and its proximity to the population centres of the Sunshine Coast and the Moreton Bay and Brisbane regions.

There are a broad variety of outdoor recreation activities currently identified as being undertaken in the IUB, some of which are unlawful or undesirable. In some instances, an increase in challenge and the perception of a unique experience results in increased desire to undertake the activity.
















The IUB does not have the capacity to accommodate every possible outdoor recreation activity. This Plan aims to provide directions for land managers to direct activities to locations that are the most suitable.

The adjacent tables reflect some of the known lawful activities occurring within the IUB and supported by this Plan. While some activities are supported by the Plan, not all activities may be desired in particular locations.

This Plan only considers recreation activities undertaken on public land within the IUB and supported by public land managers. Other activities that are undertaken on private land and/or are not supported on public land (such as motorised drone flying) are not considered in this Plan.





LAND ACTIVITIES

-  Rock climbing and abseiling
-  Rock scrambling
-  Cycling (road)
-  Mountain biking (cross-country)¹
-  Mountain biking (downhill)²
-  Mountain biking (trail)³
-  Bicycle touring
-  Adventure racing/ multi-sport
-  Bushwalking
-  Trail running
-  Geocaching
-  Orienteering/rogaining
-  Horse riding
-  Sled Dog Racing
-  Camping (Public)



MOTORISED LAND ACTIVITIES

-  4WDing
-  Trail bike riding

DID YOU KNOW?

NO THROUGH ROAD

4WDing and trail bike riding are popular activities but can only be undertaken on some public land using a registered vehicle with a licensed driver/rider.

Under age, unlicensed riders, unregistered and conditionally registered vehicles are unlawful within the IUB.

BENEFITS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Health – There are many physical and mental health benefits of outdoor recreation including reduced stress, improved self-esteem and problem-solving capability. Because outdoor recreation can be active (physically challenging), competitive (events) or passive (relaxing) it is attractive to a wide variety of people and therefore the health benefits are wide ranging.

Community and social cohesion – Recreation encourages people to come together, share experiences, and participate in activities or events. The IUB provides many events and activities that bring the community together e.g. Clean Up Australia Day (Wood et. Al, 2014).

Environmental awareness – is enhanced through recreation. Frequent participants in outdoor recreation place higher importance on environmental values and may therefore stand as stronger environmental stewards than others (Larson et. Al, 2014).

Education – Recreating in the outdoors can lead to a greater appreciation of nature including understanding of ecosystems, flora and fauna. Participants can develop increased capacity to negotiate and manage risks.

Economy – a healthier community means reduction on public health spending and improved workforce productivity.









¹Cross-country mountain biking involves rough single paths & single trails with climbs & descents on across a variety of terrain.

²Downhill mountain biking involves fast-paced descents of rough & steep trails involving jumps & drops.

³Trail mountain biking involves wider, flatter and typically longer paths distances cross-country or downhill.
















NATURE APPRECIATION

-  Conservation/revegetation
-  Scenic touring⁴
-  Guided tours and trips
-  Kite flying
-  Nature appreciation (including bird watching and wildflower viewing)
-  Photography
-  Picnicking
-  Scenic viewing

⁴Scenic touring refers to the driving of vehicles (including motorcycles) on bitumen roads.





WATER ACTIVITIES

-  Canoeing
-  Kayaking
-  Stand-up paddling
-  Dragon boating
-  Windsurfing
-  Sailing
-  Kitesurfing
-  Surfing
-  Swimming
-  Fishing
-  Spear-fishing
-  Scuba diving
-  Snorkelling



MOTORISED WATER ACTIVITIES

-  Boating
-  Jet skiing/Water-skiing



QPS patrolling the IUB. Image: HQPlantations.



Mountain bike riding
Image: Sunshine Coast Council



The Pumicestone Passage
Image: Georgina Pratten

02 THE PLAN

VISION

The vision for this Plan is:

“To coordinate a broad spectrum of appropriate, responsible and sustainable outdoor recreation activities with suitable infrastructure that respects the values, primary purposes and tenure of the landscape.”

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principles will guide the planning, design and delivery of outdoor recreation on public land across the IUB.



PROTECTION

Facilitate and manage outdoor recreation opportunities to protect the core values of the IUB, including First Nation Peoples, landscape, environmental, social, economic, land use and other cultural values.



PARTICIPATION

Plan and develop recreation opportunities that cater for social expectations including the needs and abilities of the widest range of people across the region's growing population.



SAFETY

Develop and manage outdoor recreation opportunities to enhance the safety of all participants, land managers and community members.



COST EFFICIENCY

Plan, site, design, construct and manage infrastructure and facilities that support outdoor recreation in a sustainable manner.



COORDINATION

Coordinate outdoor recreation across the IUB through the collaboration of public land managers to manage the public's use and their expectations and experience.



RESPONSIBILITY

Plan and provide outdoor recreation uses and facilities that encourage users to behave lawfully, respectfully and responsibly.



HOW WILL RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN THIS PLAN BE IMPLEMENTED?

The identification of recommendations (including actions concerning proposed new infrastructure) is not a commitment by any of the lead agencies to deliver the recommendation.

The following universal actions and future opportunities represent a commitment to collaboratively explore the recommendation in order to determine viability and enable development of detailed projects and programs to implement the recommendation or address the underlying issue. The implementation of these recommendations is subject to land managers ability to secure funding and/or allocated budgets.

To deliver many of these recommendations, partnerships between different lead agencies and other supporting organisations will be required.

Note: All projects and implementation actions identified within this Plan are subject to further consideration and annual budget allocations of the respective public land manager.

SIGNIFICANT CONSIDERATIONS

The following items have been identified as critical issues that:

- Are fundamental to address to facilitate collaborative delivery of the Plan.
- May cross tenures within the IUB making it important to address them collaboratively.
- May extend or have implications beyond the geographical extent of this Plan.

NO. 1

FIRST NATION PEOPLES VALUES

Identification, protection and appropriate celebration of First Nation Peoples' biocultural values and landscapes of cultural significance requires effective engagement and partnerships with the Jinibara Peoples and Kabi Kabi First Nation Peoples.

UNIVERSAL ACTIONS

- UA1 (a) All projects undertaken to implement this Plan should be progressed in consultation with the relevant First Nation Peoples.
- UA1 (b) Continue to develop and implement a consultation framework to identify cultural aspects of the IUB including ecosystem connectivity, biophysical and landscape values, and how these relate to or can enhance outdoor recreation activities.

NO. 2

UNLAWFUL & ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

There is persistent unlawful and anti-social behaviour within parts of the IUB, in particular unlawful driving and riding of vehicles within State forests. In some cases this is because people do not understand the tenure of the land or their legal responsibilities whereas in other instances people are knowingly ignoring laws, these include:

- Driving or riding without a license or a provisional license which permits the activity, and driving / riding unregistered or conditionally registered vehicles.
- Driving or riding in an inappropriate manner, e.g. driving on already damaged roads or in wet conditions.
- Driving or riding on unformed roads and fire breaks.
- Creating new tracks, littering and accessing inappropriate areas, including entering hazardous forest operations work sites.
- Unlawful camping; making camp fires; unlawful gatherings, trespassing and rubbish dumping.
- Removing, damaging or vandalising gates, signs and posts.
- Trespassing on and/or causing damage to adjacent public and private property.
- Hunting wild animals and using gel/paint guns.

UNIVERSAL ACTIONS

- UA2 (a) Educate the community about rules and regulations around responsible recreation.
- UA2 (b) Educate stakeholders and the broader community on the use of these areas for responsible recreational activities. Refer the community to alternative locations where facilities are provided for these activities to occur lawfully (e.g. 4WD parks, skirmish facilities and shooting ranges).
- UA2 (c) Continue to involve agencies in monitoring, control and enforcement of activities including the Queensland Police Service and Department of Transport and Main Roads.
- UA2 (d) Provide signage and other urban design cues to assist in signifying the land tenure to recreational users of the land.
- UA2 (e) Provide signage and surveillance infrastructure to assist in encouraging compliance and enabling enforcement.

NO. 3

INCREASING DEMAND & PRESSURE

Recreation related impacts and conflicts are increasing due to the rising number and concentration of users, as a result of:

- Population growth and higher-density living.
- An increase in the demand for outdoor recreation activities, as participants move away from organised sports.
- Lowering price of equipment that facilitates participation.
- Promotion of experiences via social media platforms.
- Experiences that encourage repeat visitation.
- Coordination of group activities via online platforms.
- Reduction of land suitable for outdoor recreation in South-East Queensland, including the loss of habitat due to climate change.

UNIVERSAL ACTIONS

UA3 (a) Consideration of any new facilities / management of growing popularity includes provision of supporting infrastructure and services and effective marketing / communication to educate users of sustainable / appropriate use.



Closure of private properties to public access
Image: HQPlantations Pty Ltd

NO. 4

'DIFFICULT TO LOCATE' SPORTS

There is ongoing pressure to accommodate some 'difficult to locate' activities such as 4WDing, trail bike riding, side-by-side vehicles and highly modified vehicles within the IUB. In many cases these uses are not considered compatible with the core values of the IUB or with existing supported uses and user groups.

UNIVERSAL ACTIONS

UA4 (a) On-going investigations and a collaborative approach with relevant land managers, Council's, Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation, Motorcycling Queensland, Four Wheel Drive Queensland and private land owners is required to identify potential locations (either within or outside of the IUB) for 'difficult to locate' activities (including dedicated facilities for trail bike riding and 4WDing).

UA4 (b) Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation be approached to establish a Motorised Recreation Management Forum (MRMF), with relevant stakeholders, to develop effective frameworks to manage these activities.



Informal parking occurs throughout the IUB
Image: HQPlantations Pty Ltd

NO. 5

PRIORITISATION & COLLABORATION

The remit of all land managers extends beyond the IUB, so organisations have different priorities across their tenure that may influence prioritisation and ability to obtain funding for identified actions within the IUB. This is a particular challenge for actions requiring collaboration between different managers.

UNIVERSAL ACTIONS

UA5 (a) Land managers to determine an appropriate management framework to enable collaboration to determine priority actions for delivery within the IUB.

UA5 (b) Land managers to engage and collaborate with other organisations and recreation groups who may assist in the delivery of the Plan.



Licensed and registered trail bike riding within plantation areas on formed roads.
Image: HQPlantations Pty Ltd

RECREATION AREAS IN FOCUS

Due to the vast area within the IUB, five Recreation Areas (RAs) have been defined to guide the development of this Plan. The RAs provide a framework to define areas that are most suited for specific recreation pursuits. It is important to stress that the RAs have no planning or legal status.

The location and boundaries of the RAs were determined based on the following objectives:

- Defining similar recreation settings.
- Grouping supported pursuits to minimise conflict.
- Reflecting common landscape/ environmental/cultural values.
- Assisting in the definition of action items.
- Enabling management of activities.

The five RAs are listed below and illustrated in the adjacent diagram.

- RA1: Glass House Peaks
- RA2: South-Western Hills
- RA3: Plantation Flats
- RA4: Pumicestone Waterways
- RA5: Bribie Sands

Collectively, the land managers aim to work towards the proposed vision for each RA, as identified on the following pages.

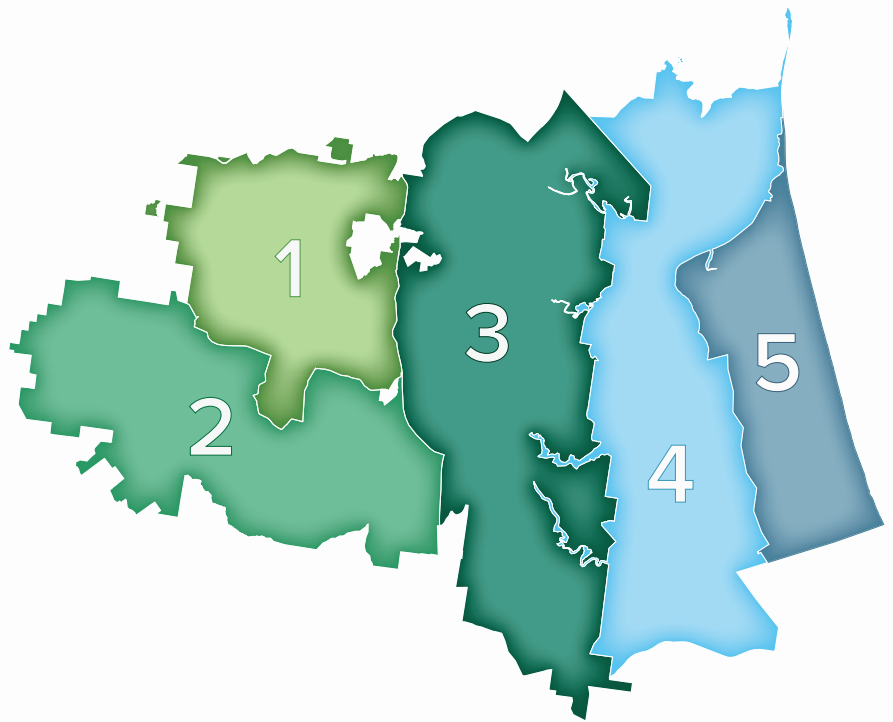
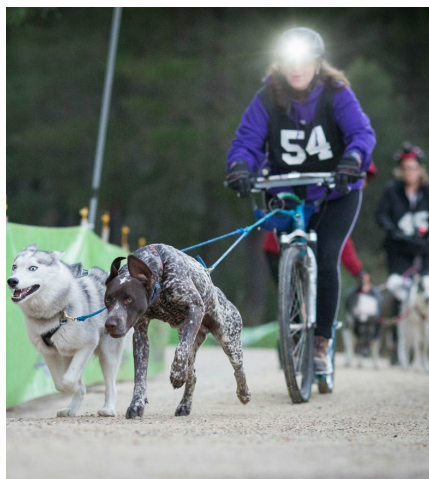


Figure 3: Recreation Areas of the IUB



Adventure racing occurs within the IUB
Image: HQPlantations Pty Ltd



Sled dog racing in the IUB
Image: HQPlantations Pty Ltd



Orienteering and rogaining events within the IUB
Image: HQPlantations Pty Ltd



Geological Features

The Glass House Mountains are a series of volcanic peaks that were formed by a series of eruptions that took place between 20,000 and 40,000 years ago. The peaks are made of a dark, basaltic rock that is very hard and resistant to weathering. This is why the peaks have remained so sharp and prominent over such a long period of time.

Flora and Fauna

The Glass House Mountains are home to a wide variety of native plants and animals. The vegetation is a mix of eucalyptus forests, grasslands, and heathlands. Some of the native plants that are found here include the Glass House Mountain Warbler, the Glass House Mountain Finch, and the Glass House Mountain Lark. There are also many native animals that live in the area, including possums, wallabies, and kangaroos.

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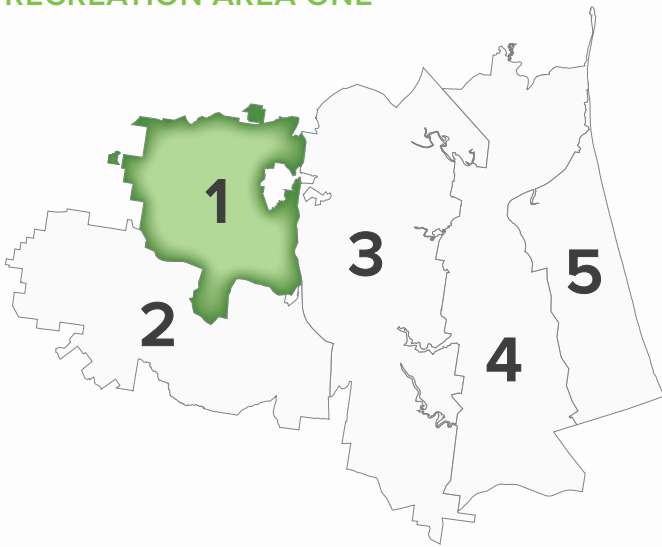
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The view from Glass House Mountains Lookout, Image: Georgina Pratten

GLASS HOUSE PEAKS

RECREATION AREA ONE



Existing lookout structure at Glass House Mountains Lookout. Image: Georgina Pratten



Carparking and information signage at Glass House Mountains Lookout. Image: Georgina Pratten



The agricultural landscape surrounding the Glass House Mountains. Image: Georgina Pratten

QUICK FACTS

The name Glass House Mountains was given to the area by **Captain James Cook**

Recreation Area One includes

8,800 ha
of land

20%
of which
is national park
while

31%
is State forest
of which

82%
is managed by
HQPlantations.

17
recreation activities
are currently identified
in this area.

EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

Defined by the iconic Glass House Mountain Peaks of Beerwah, Tibrogargan, Ngungun, Coochin, Coonowrin, Beerburrum, Tibberooowuccum, Cooee, and Tunbubudla, the scenic and cultural values of this area attracts visitors from the local to international level. Renowned for its outstanding natural and cultural values, this area is listed as a landscape of national significance and are protected by national park and State forest areas. Easy access to the Bruce Highway and nearby townships and a range of existing trails and scenic lookouts make this area the most well-known and intensively used in the IUB for land-based recreation.

EXISTING RECREATION SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS

- High landscape and scenic amenity value: includes the iconic and recognisable Glass House Mountain Peaks.
- Diversity of land-based activities ranging from bushwalking, mountain biking, rock scrambling, rock climbing and nature appreciation.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Extensive opportunities to link recreational experiences, trails and towns - particularly by enhancing links between national parks and the provision of car parks in locations that support multiple trails.
- High value for nature based and eco-tourism.
- Opportunity to communicate significant Aboriginal cultural heritage values (where supported by First Nations People), including cultural tourism opportunities.
- Opportunity to provide visitors with alternatives to climbing Glass House Mountains, helping to reduce recreation pressure on peaks.

WEAKNESSES

- Impact of recreation on cultural heritage values of First Nation Peoples (particularly certain types of climbing).
- Accommodation options are limited, there are no public camping facilities.

THREATS

- Overuse of the area, including visitor use exceeding the capacity of some visitor sites which could impact on the perception of a semi-remote experience.
- Social media including evocative 'hero shots' attracts users to undertake activities that they may be insufficiently skilled or fit to undertake.
- Anti-social behaviour including littering and vandalism.

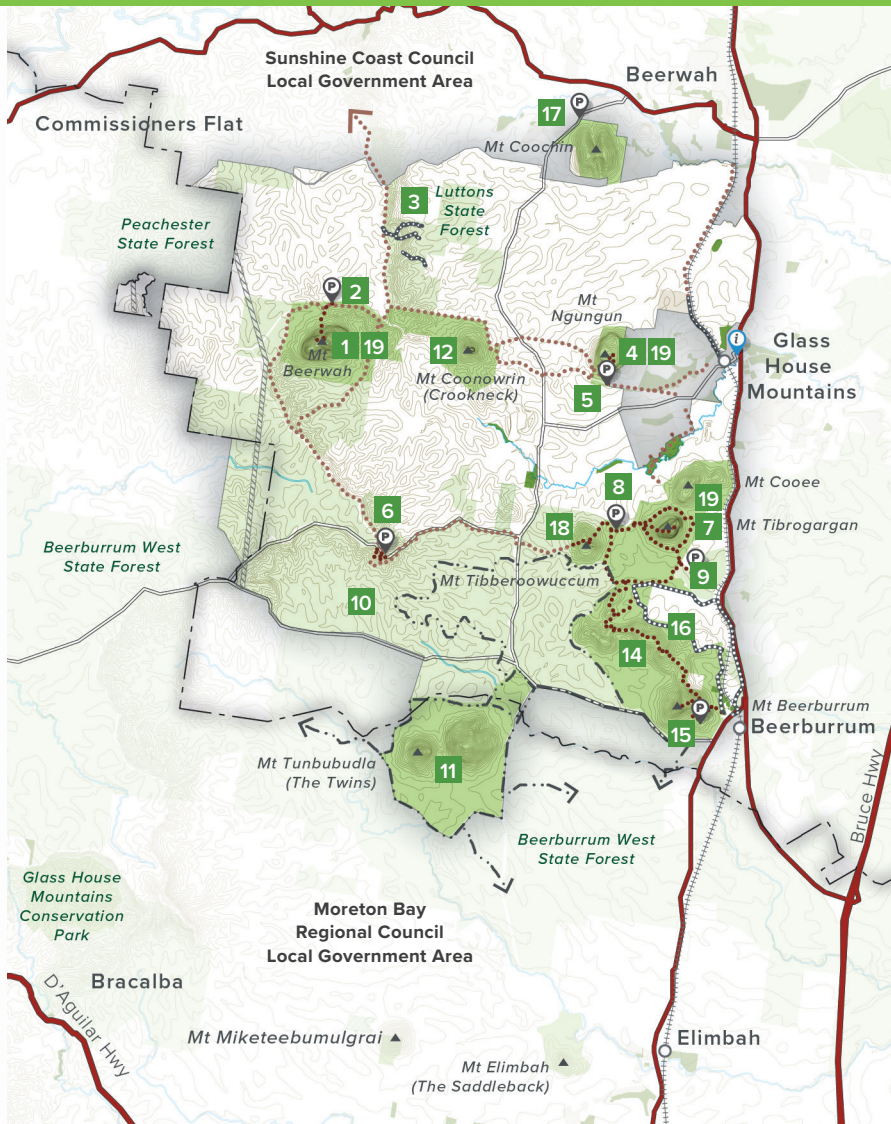
LEGEND

- LGA Boundary
- Recreation Area Boundary
- Contours (10m)
- Mountains
- Waterways
- Highways
- Major Arterial Roads
- Minor Arterial Roads
- Railway and Stations
- Existing Car Park
- Glass House Mountains Visitor & Interpretive Centre
- Existing Walking Trail
- Indicative Shared Trail
- Existing Shared Trail (Walk/Cycle)
- Indicative SEQ Horse Riding Trail Network
- Built Up Areas (DNRM)
- Public Recreation Areas & Reserves
- National Parks
- Nature Refuges
- State Forests
- Powerline Corridors

DID YOU KNOW? NATIONAL LANDSCAPE

The Glass House Mountains represent the best example of an eroded central volcano complex in Australia (DEE, 2006¹), which is one of the reasons they are identified as a National Landscape on the National Heritage List.

¹DEE (2019). Glass House Mountains National Landscape. [Online] Available at: https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl?mode=place_detail;place_id=105815



KEY EXISTING RECREATION ASSETS

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Mount Beerwah Summit, accessed by the summit route. 2 Mount Beerwah parking area and trail head providing access to Mount Beerwah View scenic lookout and the summit route. 3 Existing shared use trails within Lutlons State Forest. 4 Mount Ngungun summit, accessed by the Mount Ngungun summit walking trail. 5 Mount Ngungun parking area and trail head providing access to the summit route. 6 Glass House Mountains Scenic Lookout, amenities and walking trail. 7 Mount Tibrogargan summit accessed via the summit route. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 Mount Tibrogargan parking area, amenities and trail head, providing access to Tibrogargan circuit, Mountain View Lookout, the Trachyte circuit and Jack Ferris lookout. 9 Matthew Flinders Park amenities and picnic facilities. 10 Horse Riding, 4WDing and trail bike riding currently occur in parts of Beerburum West State Forest. 11 No formal access to Mount Tunbududla (the Twins).* 12 Restricted access area and formal indefinite closure of Mount Coonowrin (Crookneck).* 13 Mount Beerburum Summit, accessed by the summit walk. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 Yul-yan-man trail connecting Beerburum trailhead to the Trachyte circuit. 15 Beerburum parking area, trail head, amenities and picnic facilities. 16 Shared trail connecting Beerburum and Tibrogargan Trailheads. 17 No formal access at Mount Coochin. 18 No formal access to Mount Tibberooowuccum.* 19 Rock climbing areas at Mount Tibrogargan, Mount Ngungun and Mount Beerwah.
*No infrastructure provided. |
|---|---|--|

VISION FOR GLASS HOUSE PEAKS

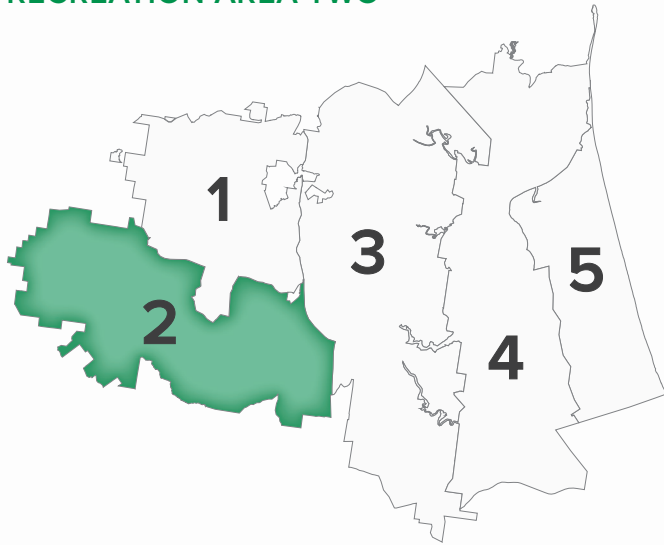
To be recognised as a nature-based recreation sanctuary, which celebrates, protects and encourages users to enjoy and respect the natural, cultural and scenic values of the Glass House Mountains.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

- 1.1 Identify opportunities to link and embellish the existing trail network for an enhanced user experience.
- 1.2 Consider strategies to provide suitable infrastructure to support recreation at key locations.

SOUTH-WESTERN HILLS

RECREATION AREA TWO



EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

Characterised by the extensive plantation forests of Beerburrum West State Forest, this rolling and undulating landscape is located at the eastern limits of the D’Aguilar Range and attracts recreational users seeking varied topography, views and a sense of remoteness. To the south, a scenic mosaic of farmland comprising characteristic fields of pineapples and other fruit crops is punctuated by the southernmost Glass House Mountain National Park peaks of Mount Elimbah (The Saddleback) and Mount Miketeebumulgrai.



Looking towards Mount Beerwah and Mount Coonowrin. Image: Lat27



Existing unformed roads and drainage issues. Image: Lat27



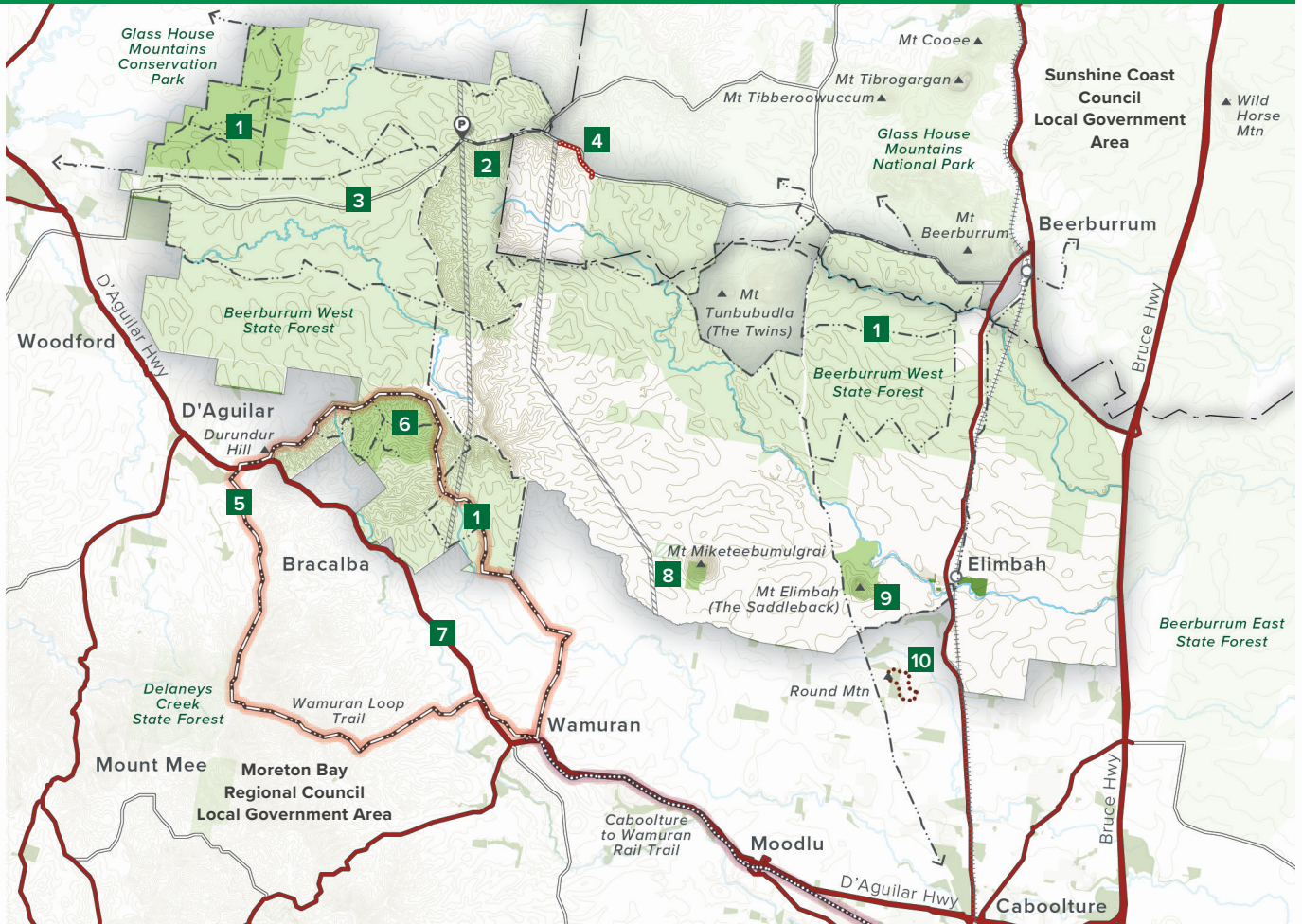
Mountain biker at Hennessey Hill mountain bike trail. Image: Andrew Kramer

QUICK FACTS

Recreation Area Two includes
12,939 ha
of land
6%
of which
is national park while
57%
is State forest
of which
82%
is managed by HQPlantations.
11
recreation activities
are currently identified
in this area.

EXISTING RECREATION SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undulating, vegetated terrain supports a range of recreational activities including horse riding, trail bike riding and challenging 4WD courses. Large tracts of State forest coupled with limited residential development reduces issues associated with noise and trespassing. Further away from the internationally significant ecosystems of Pumicestone Passage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remoteness and lack of casual surveillance creates management and safety issues, and results in difficulty in preventing unlawful use (including use by unregistered vehicles and unlicensed riders). Some existing supported recreation activities do not have adequate ancillary infrastructure e.g. toilets, car parking areas and horse float and trailer parking areas.
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are options to improve connections to Bellthorpe National Park and Mt Mee State Forest for both motorised vehicles, mountain bikers and horse riders. Suitable land form and areas to expand and enhance the mountain bike experience at key locations, including improved trail and way finding signage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New residential areas may impact on long-term recreational uses of surrounding land parcels through increased demand and potential use conflicts. Destructive impact of extensive single-track trail bike tracks. Ongoing pressure to allow unregistered (or conditionally registered) vehicles (e.g. side-by-sides) in State forests, which could cause further degradation, conflict with others users and increase management issues.



EXISTING FEATURES

- 1** Existing horse riding trails throughout Beerburum West State Forest and Glass House Mountains Conservation Park, with a focus around Bracalba.
- 2** Extensive 4WD use of the area.
- 3** Extensive trail bike use of State forest areas.
- 4** 'Hennessey Hill' mountain bike trail.
- 5** Connections to Wamuran Loop Trail.
- 6** Existing shared use trails including Bracalba running trails within Glass House Mountains Conservation Park and Beerburum West State Forest.
- 7** Connections to Caboolture to Wamuran Rail Trail.
- 8** No formal access at Mount Miketeebumulgrai.*
- 9** No formal access at Mount Elimbah.*
- 10** Informal low key route / rock scramble up Round Mountain.*
*No infrastructure provided

LEGEND

- LGA Boundary
- Recreation Area Boundary
- Contours (10m)
- Mountains
- Waterways
- Highways
- Major Arterial Roads
- Minor Arterial Roads
- Railway and Stations
- Existing Unofficial Car Park
- Existing Walking Trail
- Existing Shared Trail (Walk/Cycle)
- Existing Shared Trail (Walk/Cycle/Ride)
- Indicative SEQ Horse Riding Trail Network
- Existing MTB Trail
- Built Up Areas (DNRM)
- Public Recreation Areas & Reserves
- National Parks
- Nature Refuges
- State Forests
- Powerline Corridors

VISION FOR SOUTH-WESTERN HILLS

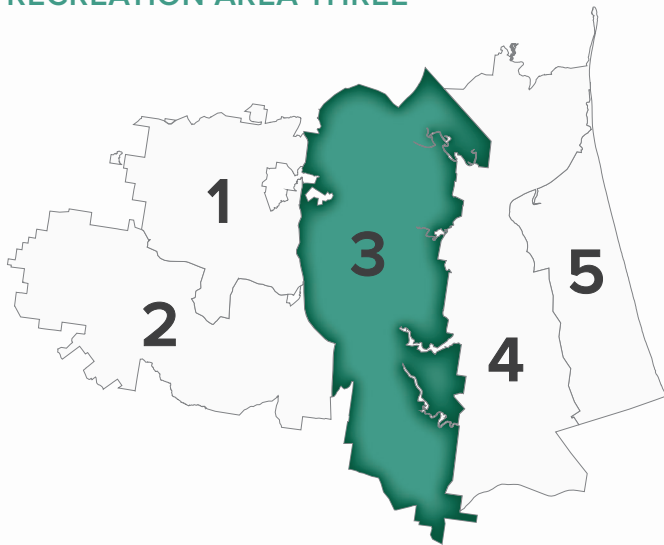
To be a destination that supports a wide range of safe and lawful motorised and non-motorised activities while protecting and respecting the natural and forestry values of the landscape.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

- 2.1 Investigate opportunities and potential locations to provide courses for lawful motorised activities of varying difficulty which have minimal impact on the core values of the area.
- 2.2 Investigate opportunities to enhance mountain biking experiences in partnership with mountain bike clubs.
- 2.3 Identify facility improvements that could enhance existing and future trail running events.
- 2.4 Determine suitable locations and facilities to support horse riding activities.

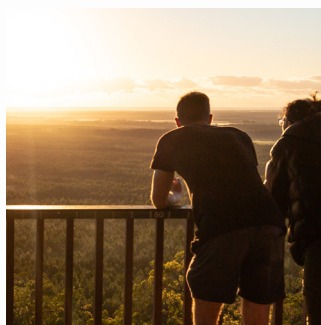
PLANTATION FLATS

RECREATION AREA THREE



EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

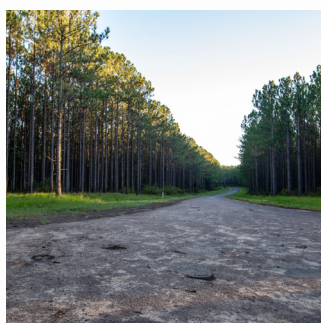
Characterised by the extensive plantation forests of Beerburrum East State Forest, this flat coastal plain landscape is traversed by creeks draining eastwards towards Pumicestone Passage. The Bruce Highway dissects this area, and provides access to Wild Horse Mountain, which is a key geographical feature and popular tourist destination that provides panoramic views towards the Glass House Mountains to the west and Pumicestone Passage and Bribie Island to the east.



Looking east from Wild Horse Mountain Lookout.
Image: Georgina Pratten



Areas of significant remnant vegetation surrounding Wild Horse Mountain. Image: Georgina Pratten



Existing access road to Wild Horse Mountain Lookout carpark area.
Image: Georgina Pratten

QUICK FACTS

Recreation Area Three includes

19,007 ha
of land

3%
of which
is national park
while

72%
is State forest
of which

99%
is managed by
HQPlantations

13
recreation activities
are currently identified
in this area.

EXISTING RECREATION SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS

- Area supports multiple recreation activities, utilising an extensive road network through the forest, with few reported issues (except unlawful uses).
- Popular area for permitted walking, running, orienteering, rogaining, adventure racing, horse riding and cross-country mountain biking events.
- Large areas of plantation forest assist in protecting the Pumicestone Passage water quality and related eco-systems.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Potential to connect and enhance existing trails to create a regional North-South trail from Brisbane to Sunshine Coast for non-motorised activities, with connectivity to the rail network for an all-day experience.
- Enhance areas that regularly support events by providing for safe staging and parking.

WEAKNESSES

- Water courses through the area directly feed into the Pumicestone Passage, requiring sediment control and erosion prevention from recreation activities.
- The area is largely flat with few points of interest to entice passive recreation use or activities focused on nature appreciation.

THREATS

- New and variations of existing activities (e.g. drone racing) are emerging, which may place pressure on land managers to provide for in the future, with or without suitable regulatory powers.
- Plantations will continually be harvested and replanted, requiring activities within and beyond those locations to be temporarily accommodated elsewhere, which may cause conflict with other established uses.
- If proposed urban development areas are developed neighbouring the IUB, there will be increased pressure on Glass House Mountains National Park.



EXISTING FEATURES

- 1** Wild Horse Mountain summit and scenic lookout accessed via maintenance track.
- 2** Wild Horse Mountain parking area.
- 3** Independent recreation activities including horse riding, 4WDing, trail bike riding, walking, sled dog racing currently occur in parts of Beerwarrum East State Forest.
- 4** Roys Road access point from the Bruce Highway, which provides access to Coochin Creek Campgrounds.
- 5** Johnston Road access point from the Bruce Highway, which provides access to Wild Horse Mountain.
- 6** Red Road access point from the Bruce Highway.
- 7** Steve Irwin Way access point from the Bruce Highway, which provides access to the Glass House Mountains.
- 8** Donnybrook Road access point from the Bruce Highway, which provides access to Donnybrook.

LEGEND

LGA Boundary	Railway and Stations
Recreation Area Boundary	Existing Car Park
Contours (10m)	Existing caravan park (MBRC owned)
Mountains	Existing Walking Trail
Waterways	Indicative SEQ Horse Riding Trail Network
Oceans and Waterbodies	Existing public boat ramps
Existing paddle craft launch points	Built Up Areas (DNRM)
Camping Area	Public Recreation Areas & Reserves
Highways	National Parks
Major Arterial Roads	State Forests
Minor Arterial Roads	

VISION FOR PLANTATION FLATS

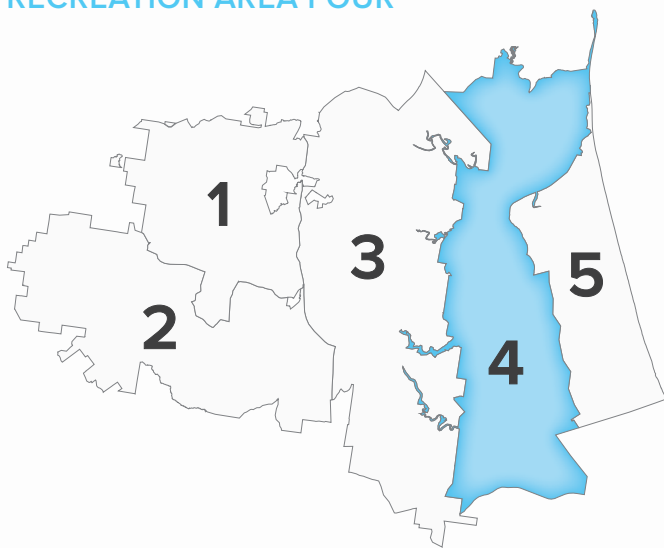
The gateway to the Inter-Urban Break, known for the diversity of activities that occur whilst respecting natural, cultural and productive values.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

- 3.1** Identify options to enhance the opportunities for scenic viewing.
- 3.2** Investigate opportunities (including community support and feasibility) to optimise motorised recreation in areas that have the least impact on residents and core values.
- 3.3** Investigate community support and feasibility for event staging areas that would benefit multiple activities.
- 3.4** Improve connectivity of trail networks and enhance connections to the rail network.

PUMICESTONE WATERWAYS

RECREATION AREA FOUR



EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

Defined by the scenic Pumicestone Passage and adjoining waterways, including Bells Creek, Coochin Creek, Hussey Creek, Glass House Mountains Creek, Elimbah Creek, Bullock Creek and Ningi Creek. This area includes the internationally important Ramsar listed wetlands and Moreton Bay Marine Park. Also includes land on the mainland and Bribie Island that supports recreation associated with the water, including part of the North Spit.



Western side of Bribie Island adjacent the Pumicestone Passage. Image: Paul Druery



Camping at Coochin Creek Camping Area. Image: Lat27



Boating on the Pumicestone Passage. Image: Lat27

QUICK FACTS

Recreation Area Four includes

12,716 ha
of land

10%
of which
is national park
while

2%
is State forest
of which
99%
is managed by
HQPlantations.

55%
of the area is within
Moreton Bay Marine
Park.

14
recreation activities
are currently
identified, including
many water-based
activities.

EXISTING RECREATION SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS

- Large waterway provides a range of water-based recreational activities and experiences.
- Existing campgrounds on Bribie Island provide for a range of desired experiences.
- The Queensland Government enhances suitable use and enforceable management by providing and promoting distinctive zones for water-based recreation under the *Marine Parks (Moreton Bay) Zoning Plan 2019*.
- Implementation of the endorsed Pumicestone Passage Catchment Action Plan has seen improvements in waterway health.

WEAKNESSES

- Northern and southern ends of the Pumicestone Passage are heavily utilised by boats which can create congestion and reduce the participant experience.
- Access to the waterway is limited, increasing the pressure on existing boat ramps and the road networks (of which some are underdeveloped).
- Current camping and day trip facilities are at capacity and often booked out well in advance during peak periods.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunities for multi-discipline adventure sports and events.
- Engage with First Nation Peoples to explore opportunities to protect culturally significant heritage sites and support cultural heritage tourism, science, management and education opportunities.

THREATS

- Passive recreation watercraft impact wader birds.
- Land-based impacts on water quality.



EXISTING FEATURES

- 1** Pumicestone Passage and adjacent waterways support water-based recreation.
- 2** Bribie Island North Spit.
- 3** Coochin Creek Campground to Boat Ramp Paddle Trail

LEGEND

LGA Boundary	4WD Access Track
Recreation Area Boundary	Existing Car Park
Contours (10m)	Existing caravan park (MBRC owned)
Waterways	Existing Walking Trail
Oceans and Waterbodies	Existing Paddle Trail
Go-Slow Area	Existing public boat ramps
Mooring Area	Existing paddle craft launch points
Existing public boat ramps	Camping Area
Existing paddle craft launch points	Built Up Areas (DNRM)
Camping Area	Public Recreation Areas & Reserves
Highways	National Parks
Major Arterial Roads	State Forests
Minor Arterial Roads	

VISION FOR PUMICESTONE WATERWAYS

A pristine and iconic waterway where low impact recreation activities provide a platform for ongoing protection and appreciation of the natural values.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

- 4.1 Investigate opportunities to upgrade existing recreation facilities to provide equitable access.
- 4.2 Support initiatives that further the knowledge of all users of the zoning and rules regarding use of the Pumicestone Passage.
- 4.3 Investigate opportunities to support the use of paddle craft.
- 4.4 Investigate opportunities that enhance camping, land-based and water-based day trip experiences in a manner that protects core values.
- 4.5 Monitor the potential for a coastal erosion breakthrough and discourage activities that may impact on dune vegetation.

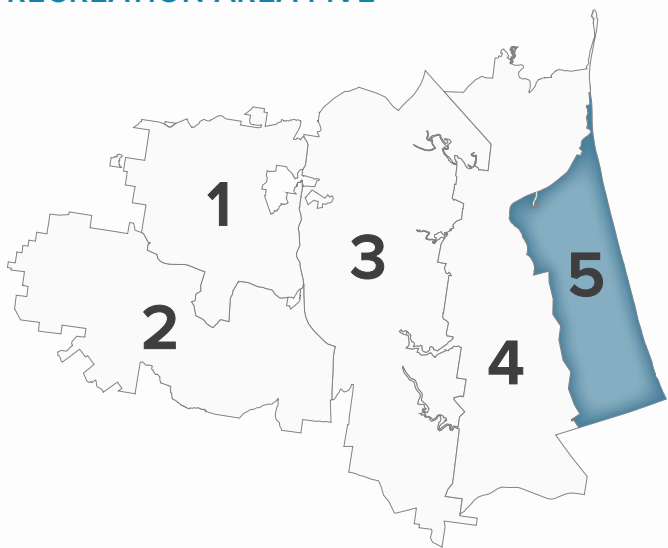
DID YOU KNOW?

ZONES AND YOU

The Pumicestone Passage has various marine park zones that have been designated by law, which provides clear information on what activities can be undertaken and at what locations.

BRIBIE SANDS

RECREATION AREA FIVE



EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

Defined by the remote, undeveloped parts of Bribie Island, including the area south of the northern searchlight and features expansive views over the Pacific Ocean and Moreton Bay Marine Park. This area includes the sandy beaches of Ocean Beach, Bribie Island National Park and Bribie Island State Forest and is dominated by remnant vegetation and plantation forests. It also includes significant cultural heritage features, both First Nation Peoples and European; including the Bribie Island Second World War Fortifications associated with Fort Bribie. This area is only accessible via 4WD vehicle or water.



Existing access tracks to camping sites. Image: Damian Thompson



Ocean Beach camping area on the northern end of Bribie Island. Image: Damian Thompson



Ocean Beach dune system and vegetation. Image: Damian Thompson

QUICK FACTS

Recreation Area Five includes

9,840 ha
of land

67%
of which
is national park
while

31%
is State forest
of which

100%
is managed by
HQPlantations.

38%
of the recreation area
is designated Ramsar
Wetland and

5%
of the area is within
Moreton Bay Marine
Park.

14
recreation activities
are currently identified
in this area.

EXISTING RECREATION SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
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- Large expanse of open water/ocean which is popular for surfing, kite surfing and jet skis with minimal conflict.
- Large beach area for 4WDing activity.
- Area is protected and managed by DES under the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006.
- Permit system for 4WDing and camping is well managed, promoted and accessible for users.

- Protection of the area under the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006 and other regulations (e.g. Nature Conservation Act) can impact on the type of recreation activities that can occur.
- Overcrowding due to the popularity of beach 4WDing.
- There are limited camping facilities.

OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
---------------	---------

- Enhancement of public lands by activating key nodes, particularly the 4WD beach access car park which also services the beach and the historical fort at Woorim.

- Impact of 4WD activity on the turtle hatching grounds and other threatened, rare or endangered species on the eastern coastline.
- Impacts on the ecology of various habitat areas.
- Tidal impacts on eroded areas.
- Sea level rise.
- Damage to Aboriginal pre-contact sites such as middens.



DID YOU KNOW?

WHAT'S A RAM?

Most of Bribie Island, including areas of State Forest within the Plantation Licence Area are managed as a 'Recreation Management Area' established under the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006.

EXISTING FEATURES

- 1 South Pacific Ocean supports water and beach based recreation.
- 2 Existing public camping areas at Ocean Beach.
- 3 Significant cultural heritage features located at Fort Bribie, including multiple structures associated with Bribie Island Second World War Fortifications. Includes the existing Fort Bribie walking trail.
- 4 Lagoons on eastern side of Bribie Island support swimming in fresh water.
- 5 Existing 4WD access point for Ocean Beach access track.
- 6 Existing 4WD access point for Poverty Creek and northern access tracks.
- 7 Ocean Beach 4WD access track.
- 8 Northern 4WD access track.
- 9 Poverty Creek 4WD access track.
- 10 Lighthouse Reach picnic area and boat access point.
- 11 Northern searchlight.

LEGEND

LGA Boundary	Minor Arterial Roads
Recreation Area Boundary	4WD Access Track
Contours (10m)	Existing Car Park
Waterways	Existing caravan park (MBRC owned)
Oceans and Waterbodies	Existing Walking Trail
Existing public boat ramps	Built Up Areas (DNRM)
Existing paddle craft launch points	Public Recreation Areas & Reserves
Camping Area	National Parks
Highways	State Forests
Major Arterial Roads	

VISION FOR BRIBIE SANDS

A unique island refuge where outdoor recreation activities enable the protection and celebration of the significant natural wonders.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

- 5.1 Continue to manage and maintain opportunities for 4WDing and camping along Ocean Beach in a sustainable manner.
- 5.2 Investigate opportunities to support opportunities for water sports and fishing.
- 5.3 Investigate options to enhance the trail network to improve opportunities for nature appreciation.

03 NEXT STEPS

Coordination and prioritisation is required to ensure consistent implementation of the Plan across the IUB, particularly of activities that cross different tenures.

The following high-level process is recommended for the implementation of identified actions.

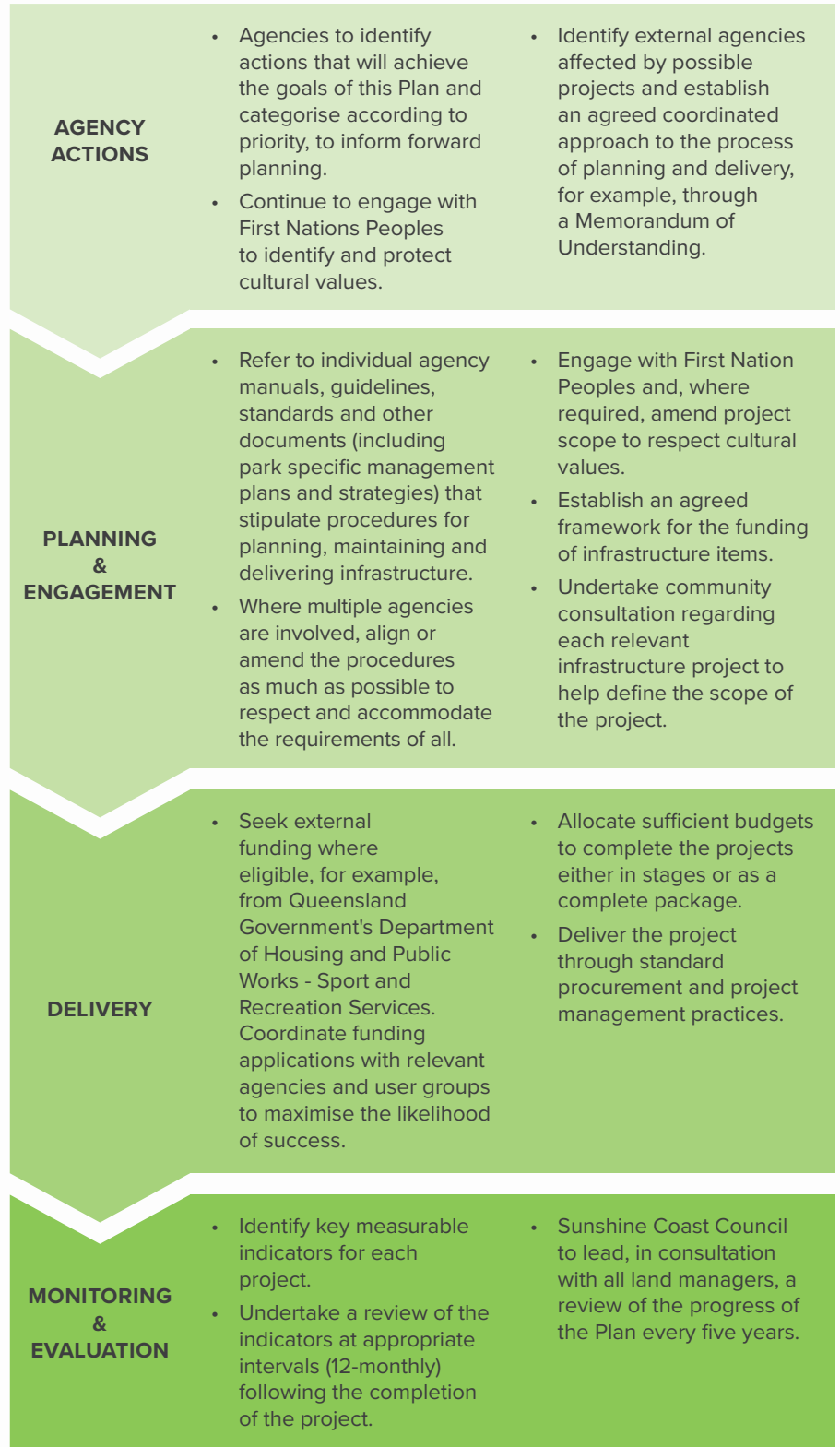


Figure 4: Implementation Process

Note: All projects and implementation actions identified within this Plan are subject to further consideration and annual budget allocations of the respective public land manager.



The Glass House Mountains and rural landscape of the IJB, Image: Lat27

KEY TERMS

Built Up Areas	The identified extent of existing urban settlements with more than 50 residential buildings and where the areas have a cadastral parcel size of less than 2 hectares, as mapped by Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
Inter-Urban Break (IUB) and Northern Inter-Urban Break (NIUB)	<p>An Inter-Urban Break is a 'non-urban land area separating major urban development areas' (ShapingSEQ 2017, page 182).</p> <p>In the context of this document, references to the 'IUB' relate to the Inter-Urban Break Outdoor Recreation Study Area defined in this document for the purpose of this study (refer to Figure 2). This area is generally consistent with the Sunshine Coast - Moreton Bay Regional Inter-Urban Break (Northern Inter-Urban Break).</p> <p>References to the 'NIUB' relate to the Moreton Bay–Sunshine Coast (Northern) as identified within the South East Queensland Regional Plan (ShapingSEQ).</p>
Lawful / Unlawful	<p>Lawful recreation activities refer to recreation activities that conform to, are permitted by or recognised by law or rules on a given land tenure.</p> <p>Unlawful recreation activities refer to recreation activities that do not conform to, are not permitted by or not recognised by law or rules.</p>
Lead Agency	The State Government Department or Local Government who would be the primary lead for an action noting that all actions will be undertaken collaboratively.
Management Team	The group responsible for developing and implementing this Outdoor Recreation Plan. Membership includes Sunshine Coast Council, Department of Environment and Science, Moreton Bay Regional Council, HQPlantations and Queensland Governments Department of Housing and Public Works - Sport and Recreation.
Marine park	An area defined under the <i>Marine Parks Act 2004</i> . Marine parks are established to protect tidal lands and waters and conserve the natural marine environment while allowing for its sustainable use. They protect habitats, including mangrove wetlands, seagrass beds, mudflats, sandbanks, beaches, rocky outcrops and fringing reefs (Queensland Government, 2019). The Moreton Bay Marine Park is subject to the <i>Marine Parks (Moreton Bay) Zoning Plan 2019</i> and <i>Marine Parks Regulation 2017</i> .
Marine Zone	Separate from zoning associated with Marine Parks, marine zones establish controls (including restrictions or prohibitions) on certain types of ships or activities within a specified area of our waterways, to enable improved management of our waterways at a local level to balance the needs of maritime users with local community concerns about amenity.
Motorbiking and Trail bike riding	<p>Motorbiking refers to the riding of registered motorcycles on formed roads.</p> <p>Trail bike riding refers to the riding of registered or unregistered trail bikes on formed or unformed roads.</p> <p><i>It is noted that both riding on unformed roads and riding of unregistered motorbikes and/or trail bikes are unlawful activities.</i></p>
National park	An area dedicated under the Nature Conservation Act 1992. The IUB includes The Glass House Mountains National Park and Bribie Island National Park.
Outdoor Recreation	Physical activity in outdoors or natural settings, which provides opportunities to connect individually, in small groups or as a community to the outdoor environment (Australian Curriculum quoted on QORF website, 2019).
Plantation Licence Area (PLA)	<p>The State forest area managed by HQPlantations Pty Ltd (HQP) under a 99-year Plantation Licence granted by the State under the Forestry Act 1959.</p> <p>HQP owns the plantation forests and the plantation road network, however the underlying land is still State-owned land. While the public is allowed to access State plantation forests, this access is conditional on compliance with all road rules, regulatory signage and forest closures required to ensure the safe undertaking of plantation forest operations. Vehicle access is restricted to formed roads.</p>
Protected Areas	All areas dedicated under the Nature Conservation Act 1992, including national parks, conservation parks, resource reserves, nature refuges and conservation areas.

Ramsar wetland	A wetland of international significance as defined in accordance with the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, 1971 (The Ramsar Convention). The IUB includes part of the Moreton Bay Ramsar site.
Recreation Area (RA)	An area defined solely for the purposes of this Outdoor Recreation Plan to provide a framework to direct recreation pursuits to those areas to which they are most suited and present the lowest risk to key IUB values. It is noted that RAs have no status from a planning or legal perspective.
Recreation Area Management (RAM)	An area established under the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006. Within the IUB only specific areas on Bribie Island falls under this Act.
Road	<p>A road is defined as an area of land that has been set aside, or dedicated, by legislation for public travel and includes the entire area of land set aside, from property boundary to property boundary (not just the land covered by a constructed carriageway). Not all roads are currently used by vehicles or pedestrians, and some roads may never end up being used for that purpose.</p> <p>While land within a road is owned by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, the management of roads is typically overseen by local governments or the Department of Transport and Main Roads.</p> <p>A road licence may be granted over an area of road that has been temporarily closed. This tenure allows the licensee to use the land for the defined purpose until such time as it is again required as a road. The licensee has the right to exclusive occupation of the road (within the conditions of the licence).</p> <p>All vehicles and road users on roads (whether sealed, formed or unformed) and road-related areas are subject to road rule regulations.</p>
Road-related areas	<p>A road-related area is any of the following—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) an area that divides a road; (b) a footpath or nature strip adjacent to a road; (c) an area that is not a road and that is open to the public and designated for use by cyclists or animals; and (d) an area that is not a road and that is open to, or used by, the public for parking vehicles.
Road (formed)	A road, whether sealed or unsealed, which has been constructed with drainage features for regular use. Formed roads have the legal status of a road, may be used by the public, and are subject to road rule regulations. Major roads around plantation compartments in State forests are generally formed roads.
Road (unformed)	A cleared road or track that is not intended nor maintained for public use. Although public use is not permitted on unformed roads, road rules still apply. Many roads and tracks within plantation compartments in State forests are unformed roads.
State forest	Land dedicated under the Forestry Act 1959 which provide for the permanent reservation of forest for producing timber and other forest products (e.g. quarry materials), protecting watersheds, and having regard to conserving water and soil quality. State forest's are the property of the Crown. State forests in the IUB include Beerburrum West State Forest, Beerburrum East State Forest, Beerwah State Forest, Bribie Island State Forest, Luttons State Forest and Peachester State Forest.
Urban Footprint	As identified within ShapingSEQ, the Urban Footprint identifies land within which the region's urban development needs to 2041 can be accommodated and includes established urban areas and land with potential for new urban development.

