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Committee Secretary
Education, Employment and Small Business Committee
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Queensland Health and Wellbeing Bill 2019

Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation Incorporated (QORF) is the peak body representing the interests of the outdoor recreation sector in Queensland, which incorporates nature-based and outdoor recreation, outdoor education activities, adventure tourism, adventure therapy, and adventure racing. As a member-based, not-for-profit association, QORF is charged with representing and advocating on the behalf of a coalition of outdoor recreation groups and individuals.

Queenslanders highly value and enjoy experiences in the outdoors and QORF acts to protect the legacy of participation in outdoor recreation for our current and future population.

QORF welcomes the introduction of the *Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019* including the establishment a health promotion agency, to be known as Health and Wellbeing Queensland (HWQ), as a statutory body contributing to the objectives of the Bill. HWQ has the potential to play a key role in the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders.

Outdoor recreation opportunities and locations provide Queenslanders with positive quality of life choices, experiences and social connections. Outdoor recreation spaces and activities connect people to place, self and others and enable communities to lead healthier and more fulfilling lives.

As part of our Nature Play Queensland project, QORF has developed a series of evidence-based position statements entitled "*Nature Play is Everybody's Business*". The position statements set out the linkages between children and health, infrastructure, education, environment and community. A copy of *Nature Play is Everybody's Business* is attached for your information.

The Nature Play Health Position Statement states that we believe a healthy world comes from a complete and balanced childhood incorporating outdoor free play. Similarly, a healthy Queensland comes from a balanced life incorporating outdoor activities. It calls for an alignment between nature play and health to strengthen children's health and the health of their families, neighbourhoods and communities.

The proposed Health and Wellbeing Queensland statutory body will be uniquely positioned to drive the alignment between outdoor activities and health. QORF looks forward to developing a close partnership with HWQ once it is formed, including partnering and collaborating on projects about improving the health and wellbeing of the Queenslanders.

It is noted that the *Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019* includes an amendment of the *Hospital Foundations Act 2018*, which would have the effect of accommodating the possibility of a foundation being set up “to support or promote the objectives of preventing illness and improving the health and wellbeing of the Queensland population”. This amendment is supported as a means of funding the programs and actions of *Hospital Foundations Act 2018*, and as a way to appropriately fund some of the outcomes and outputs of Health and Wellbeing Queensland.

QORF has recently made submissions to the development of the Queensland Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-2029 and to the Queensland Walking Strategy 2019-2029. Although these two strategies are being developed by the Department of Housing and Public Works (Sport and Recreation) and Department of Transport and Main Roads (Cycling and Programs Team), QORF takes the view that each the strategies need to be read together as part of the bigger picture regarding physical activity across Queensland. The submissions that QORF made to the development of these strategies are available via our website: <https://qorf.org.au/industry/resources-master/submissions/>

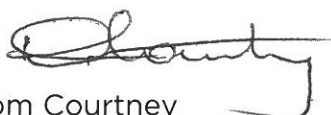
QORF supports the submission made by Queensland Fitness Sport and Recreation Skills Alliance regarding the *Queensland Health and Wellbeing Bill 2019*.

As the Executive Officer of the peak body for outdoor recreation in Queensland, I would appreciate the opportunity to appear before the committee at the public hearing on Monday 1 April 2019 to discuss QORF’s submission. I am able to appear in person at that hearing.

This submission regarding the *Queensland Health and Wellbeing Bill 2019* has been approved by the Management Committee of QORF.

If there are any queries about this submission, please contact me by telephone on 07 3369 9455 or 0419 976 800 or by email eo@qorf.org.au.

Yours sincerely,



Dom Courtney
QORF Executive Officer

