

# Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026

**Submission No:** 048

**Submission By:** Outdoors Queensland

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18<sup>th</sup> March 2026

State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email – [SDIWC@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:SDIWC@parliament.qld.gov.au)

### **Submission regarding the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026**

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.

Outdoors Queensland appreciates the opportunity to contribute to this process.

We understand that the objective of the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026 (the Bill) is to establish the Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority (SCWA) as a statutory body which would be responsible for waterways from Pumicestone Passage in the south to the Noosa lakes in the north, including the Noosa, Maroochy and Mooloolah rivers.

We understand that the SCWA's functions and powers would be focussed on planning and facilitating management, use and development of the waterways, as distinct from Maritime Safety Queensland's regulatory functions and powers.

These Sunshine Coast waterways are significant places for outdoor activities, whether for outdoor recreation, outdoor/environmental education, outdoor health and adventure/nature-based tourism.



We understand that public consultation has not been undertaken in the preparation of the Bill because it primarily involves the internal management of government.

Infrastructure to support access to the Sunshine Coast waterways must be properly designed, installed, managed and maintained throughout its working life, accounting for the needs of all stakeholders.

We understand that under the Bill, the SCWA will be required to consult with the public and with Maritime Safety Queensland and the Moreton Bay, Noosa and Sunshine Coast local governments to develop a waterways management strategy for a 10-year period. Outdoors Queensland would be pleased to assist the SCWA with consultation so that the outdoors community is engaged.

We support the inclusion of consideration of benefits and impacts for the local community, local environment, and local marine industries, tourism and economy in the strategic planning, development and implementation of the waterways management strategy.

We would also be pleased to become involved in consultation regarding waterways management programs to implement the proposed waterways management strategy and help ensure the waterways management programs meet community expectations regarding outdoor activities.

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 the contact details supplied.

Yours sincerely,



Dom Courtney  
Executive Officer / Company Secretary

