

# Outdoor Recreation



## Why is it not Nationally Recognised?

There are two weeks to go before the 2010 Federal election and the outdoor sector has a great opportunity to raise our profile and get the politicians thinking about a) who we are; b) what we want; and c) why they should care. QORF encourages you all to write to the candidates for the Federal seat in which you live reminding them that:

- outdoor recreation is unseen nationally,
- it has no recognition within any Ministerial Portfolio,
- there is no Federal Government agency taking responsibility for outdoor recreation in the nation,
- and, there is a lack of federal commitment to an outdoor recreation agenda.

When it is considered that a survey of QORF's members, to which 40 organisations replied, revealed in excess of 200,000 participants with a combined annual turnover of \$20 million – it is evident that outdoor recreation is a substantial sector, is engaged in widely by the Australian population, and contributes to our society economically, socially, environmentally and individually.

As representatives and participants in outdoor activities identify what you would like to see from the next federally elected government of Australia including perhaps:

- Active and informed involvement in environmental and infrastructure planning to ensure the creation and maintenance of green space and water sources for outdoor recreation purposes that meet the current and future needs of the Australian community.
- A commitment to enabling and promoting achievement of industry training needs and standards throughout the country. This would include, for example, financial and administrative support to refine and expand the National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme (NOLRS) throughout the nation. This initiative of the Outdoor Council of Australia is designed to provide a mechanism to gauge outdoor leaders' skills, currency and capacity to safely lead outdoor groups across a breadth of risk activities, but is restricted by resource constraints.
- A National Government and Industry agreed agenda to drive research into areas that will advance the development of outdoor recreation in Australia on topics such as: the economic and social contributions of the industry to the national economy and lifestyle; the extent, nature and costs of participation; investigations into the allocation of green space that can be used for outdoor recreation purposes, and the activities that are catered for; and barriers to participation.
- The establishment, or allocation, of a Minister and Federal Government agency to oversee the delivery of outdoor recreation opportunities. Currently no Federal department or politician has outdoor recreation as its core business; as such outdoor recreation is being ignored both policy, and access to land and water for recreational purposes is ancillary (at best) to other core activities.
- Support to deliver the Outdoor Industry developed National Outdoor Strategy.
- Action and incentives to enable schools throughout the nation to provide for, value and promote outdoor recreation and education opportunities to ensure future generations experience nature, learn resilience, understand risk and appreciate the pleasure and challenges of adventures in the natural world.

Remember; **WRITE** to your sitting member and then write all parties – Liberals, Labor, Greens, Nationals, Independents

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