

**PRESS STATEMENT
KARAWATHA FOREST PROTECTION SOCIETY INC.
PO Box 2017 Sunnybank Hills 4109**

23 February 2007

Conservation Concerns Regarding South East Queensland Outdoor Recreation Strategy

The Karawatha Forest Protection Society and other Brisbane natural area groups are deeply concerned about the current shortage of suitable areas put aside for outdoor recreation.

A lack of Government foresight has led to a shortage of suitable outdoor recreational sites. ROSS scheme funds intended for the purchase of land suitable for outdoor recreation were redirected in the 1990's leading to the current shortage, thus increasing pressure on the natural areas that are available.

The outdoor recreation industry is worth an estimated \$1billion and with our growing population demands are now being put on natural areas to provide services for this industry.

Natural areas in Brisbane and surrounding shires are under serious threat from high impact outdoor activities because not enough thought has been given to the purchase of land specific to the outdoor recreation needs of a growing population.

The Society fears that areas such as Karawatha Forest, which have been set aside for protection of biodiversity and low impact recreation, will be called upon to provide services to a greater number of groups servicing the (outdoor recreation industry.)

Natural area groups are concerned that conservation values of green spaces in South East Queensland - including our national parks- will be sacrificed to accommodate the growing demand for suitable outdoor recreation sites.

The State Government is currently calling for submissions from the community via a "discussion paper for public comment on the South East Queensland Regional Outdoor Recreation Strategy" aiming to identify land suitable for outdoor recreation. The Society urges anyone concerned about the protection of our biodiversity to put in a submission and voice such concerns.

Submissions close on 30 March 2007

" South East Queensland Regional Outdoor Recreation Strategy - discussion paper for public comment " is available from your local State representative or www.oum.qld.gov.au or the Karawatha Forest Protection Society [Ph 3711 9346](tel:37119346) or [3273 1988](tel:32731988)

Post your submission to Office of Urban Management
Reply Paid 15009
City East Qld 4002

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