



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **Outdoor Council of Australia and Parks and Leisure Australia unite to strengthen outdoor participation and healthier communities**

The Outdoor Council of Australia (OCA) and Parks and Leisure Australia (PLA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), establishing a new national partnership to strengthen connections between Australia's outdoor industry and the parks, leisure, recreation and open space sectors.

The partnership reflects the organisations' shared commitment to creating healthier, more active and connected communities by enabling more Australians to access and enjoy outdoor spaces, programs and experiences.

Through the MOU, OCA and PLA will work together across areas including advocacy and policy development, professional learning, workforce capability, industry practice, infrastructure planning and design, sustainability and community wellbeing.

The partnership will also provide a framework for sharing research, resources, insights and examples of good practice, while identifying opportunities for joint advocacy on matters affecting outdoor recreation, public space access and participation.

Outdoor Council of Australia Chair, Lori Modde said the agreement recognised the important relationship between the places that enable outdoor participation and the organisations and professionals who deliver outdoor experiences.

"Outdoor participation does not happen in isolation. It relies on accessible, well-planned and well-managed parks, public spaces and recreation infrastructure, alongside a skilled and sustainable outdoor workforce," Ms Modde said.

"This MOU brings together two sectors that are naturally connected and gives us a stronger platform to address shared challenges and opportunities."



"By aligning our knowledge, networks and advocacy, we can help more Australians safely access meaningful outdoor experiences and contribute to healthier individuals, stronger communities and a more connected Australia."

Parks and Leisure Australia National President, Kristin Davies said that "Australia's ability to improve health, wellbeing and social connection depends on people having welcoming, inclusive and resilient places where they can be active and connect with others. Parks and open spaces are not simply settings for outdoor participation, they are essential community infrastructure and an important part of Australia's liveability and preventative health system."

"This partnership brings together the professionals who plan, create and steward these places with those who enable outdoor experiences and participation. By combining our expertise and influence, PLA and OCA can strengthen national advocacy, build sector capability and translate shared evidence into better outcomes for communities across Australia." Mrs Davies said.

Under the MOU, OCA and PLA will share knowledge and resources, align advocacy where appropriate, support professional and workforce development, promote relevant events and strengthen connections across their respective sectors. Regular communication will also provide greater access to each organisation's networks and help identify emerging priorities and opportunities for collaboration.

*ENDS*

#### **About the Outdoor Council of Australia**

The Outdoor Council of Australia is the national peak body representing organisations and individuals delivering outdoor activities for recreation, education, tourism, personal development and corporate development. OCA advocates for a strong, safe and sustainable outdoor industry and represents the sector's views and needs to the Australian community, industry and the Australian Government.

Website: [www.outdoorcouncilaustralia.com](http://www.outdoorcouncilaustralia.com)

#### **About Parks and Leisure Australia**

Parks and Leisure Australia is the national peak body representing people and organisations involved in parks, leisure, sport, recreation, open space and environmental management across Australia. Its vision is for Australia to be the most liveable country in the world, renowned for its parks, sport and recreation facilities that provide the foundation for healthy communities and liveable towns and cities.



Website: [Home - Parks & Leisure Australia](#)

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