

Section 7

General trends from the 2007 SEQORDS

The information presented in this section sets the scene on the trends in participation rates, frequency rates and activity-events as presented in the 2007 SEQORDS. The trends that require more detailed scrutiny are as follows:

- the decrease in participation rates in all activities except bicycle riding and driving other vehicles;
- the decrease in frequency rates in most activities; and
- the corresponding decreases in activity-events across many activities.

It must be noted that whilst this study explores reason for declines and some increases in activities, the overall participation and frequency rates in outdoor recreation in 2007 remain high compared to previous 2001 and 1997 SEQORDS.

Figures 6, 7 and 8 show the changes in participation rates, frequency rates and the activity-events across the three studies. The participation rates are based on the number of people undertaking the activity proportionate to the SEQ population from the 2005 Australian Bureau of Statistics census on June 30th 2005. More detailed data is presented in the 2007 SEQORDS.

Figure 6: Participation rates for outdoor recreation activities across the three SEQORDS

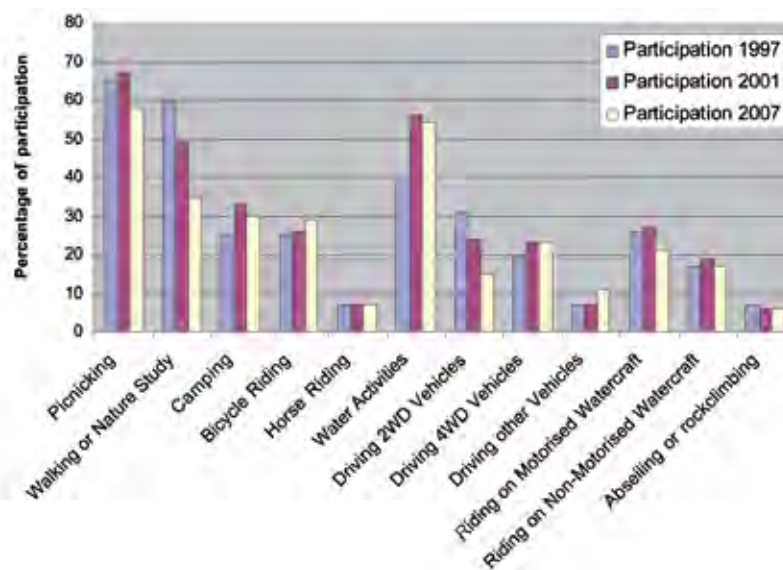
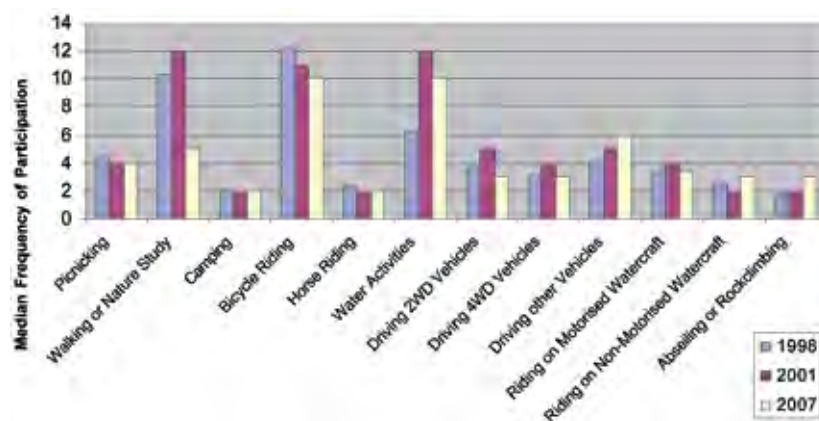


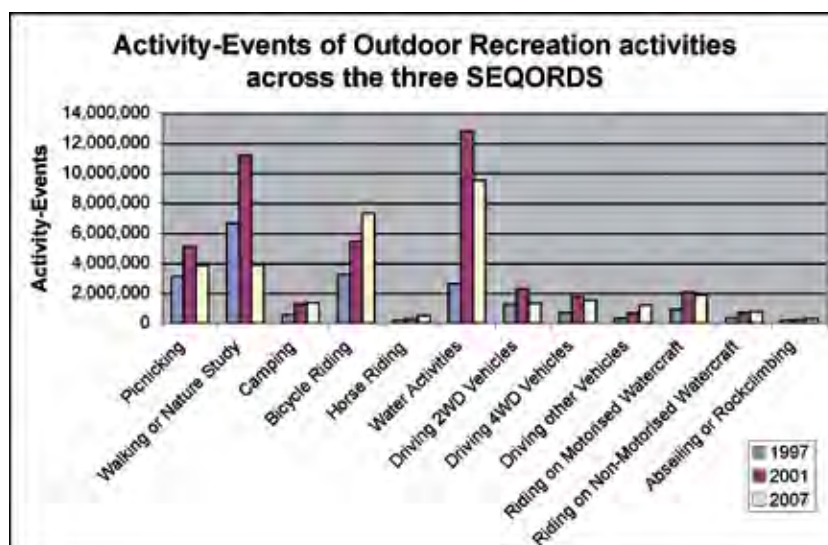
Figure 7: Frequency of participation for outdoor recreation activities across the three SEQORDS



Section 7

General trends from the 2007 SEQORDS cont.

Figure 8: Activity-events of outdoor recreation activities across the three SEQORDS



Changes to activity-event numbers between the three SEQORDS are also shown in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Changes to activity-events across the three SEQORDS

	1997	2001	2007
Picnicking	3 096 000	5 093 904	3 835 902
Walking or Nature Study	6 622 900	11 176 176	3 857 240
Camping	554 400	1 254 468	1 332 799
Bicycle Riding	3 233 000	5 436 035	7 327 114
Horse Riding	182 400	266 100	482 565
Water Activities	2 608 200	12 772 776	9 506 865
Driving 2WD Vehicles	1 224 700	2 280 850	1 326 234
Driving 4WD Vehicles	672 700	1 748 652	1 516 634
Driving other Vehicles	315 000	665 250	1 165 379
Riding on Motorised Watercraft	894 300	2 052 768	1 851 475
Riding on Non-Motorised Watercraft	333 000	722 270	755 034
Abseiling/Rock-climbing	187 500	228 086	265 903

A notable trend in the figures above that occurred in 2001 is the spike in participation rates, frequency of participation, and activity-events for many of the activities. The activities that show this pattern in the activity-events are: picnicking, walking or nature study, driving 2wd vehicles and to a lesser extent water activities. These changes may be determined by the increase in many constraints (in addition to 'time') in the 2007 SEQORDS.³

Changes have also occurred in latent demand as measured through non participants who would like to participate. Figure 9 shows the rates of non participation between 1997, 2001 and 2007 SEQORDS.

The trends between the years are expressed as changes in percentage in Figure 10.

From the two figures it can be concluded that demand is still high but that is decreasing. Two exceptions to the trend were bicycle riding and driving other vehicles. These activities also displayed a rise in activity rates and thus show that latent demand is a reasonable indicator of potential participation in outdoor recreation.

Whilst it is easy to suggest possible explanations for the trend it is difficult to ascribe cause and effect using the research instruments and techniques of the SEQORDS. This difficulty applies to most of the data collected, analysed, and presented in the SEQORDS and the Trends Analysis. However, the qualitative

research from the 2001 SEQORDS and recent outdoor recreation literature can be used to make some conservative and qualified explanations for the results of the

2007 SEQORDS. In the following sections the issues identified in the 2007 SEQORDS will be explored.

Figure 9: Rates of non participants who would like to participate across the three SEQORDS

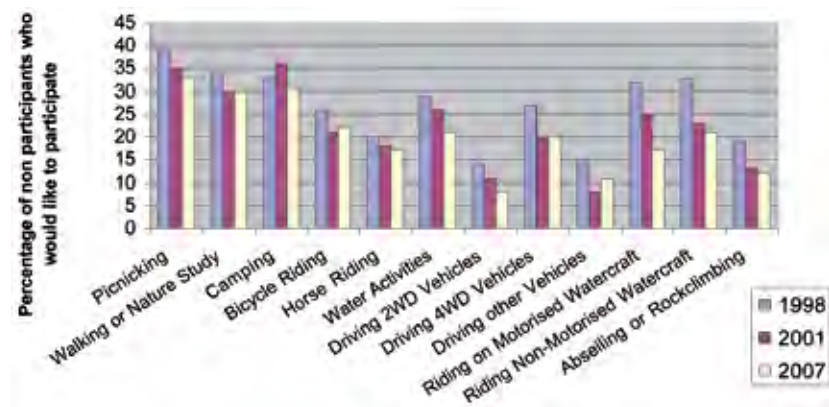
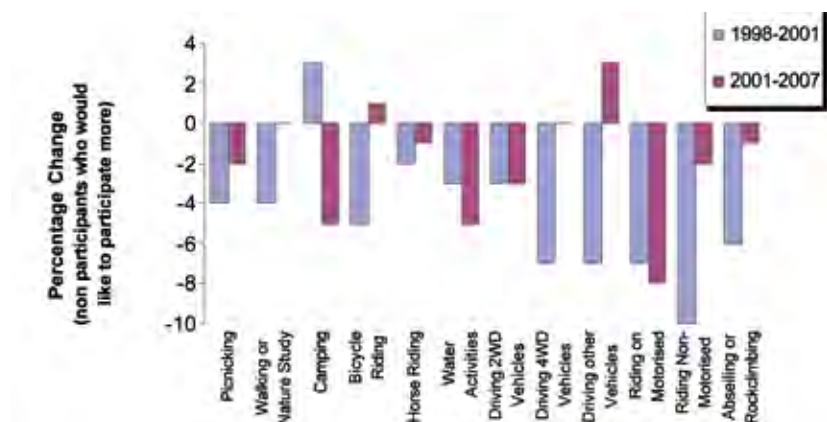


Figure 10: Changes in the rates of non participants who would like to participate across the three SEQORDS



³ The changes to participation rates and frequencies trend may also be exacerbated by the sampling issues outlined in section 5: Methodology

Section 8

Changing constraints

General changes to constraints over the three studies will be presented first. The findings presented in this section are similar to the 2007 SEQORDS but differ in that aspects that help explain changes in participation rates and frequency rates will be explored. In this section the constraints of 'time', 'nowhere to go', 'family responsibilities', 'cost' and 'equipment' will be examined. The research question for this section is given below. After each constraint has been detailed a discussion of the issues pertaining to the constraint will be undertaken.

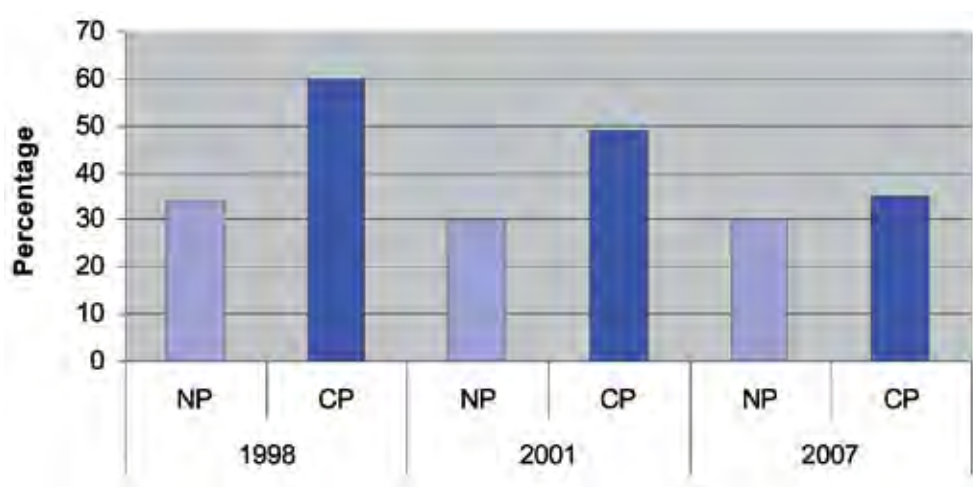
Does the change in certain constraints explain the major changes in participation rates, frequency rates and activity-events in selected activities?

There are three aspects that need to be explored to be able to answer this question adequately. The first is to determine the extent to which constraints for current participants' impact on observed frequency of participation. Changes to the behaviour of current participants influence the frequency rates of participation.

The second is to determine the extent to which constraints for non-participants may impact on observed decreases or increases in participation rates. Changes in latent demand relate to current participation. The assumption behind this approach is that changes to non-participants' involvement can potentially influence participation rates and frequency rates. For instance if the number of non-participants⁴ increases or is stable at the same time as a decrease occurs in the number of current participants, then it can be assumed that some of the current participants have become non-participants. In other words, the constraints for non-participants can be assumed to impact on the rate of current participation where there are declines in participation rates and corresponding changes in non-participation rates.

An example of this can be seen in walking or nature study in Figure 11 below.

Figure 11: Rates for current participants who would like to participate more and non-participants who would like to participate in walking or nature study across the three SEQORDS. (NP: non participants; CP current participants)



⁴ Non-participants who would like to participate

Figure 11 shows that there is decrease in current participation but there is a relatively stable rate of non-participants reporting that they would like to participate. This indicates that some of the current participants are now non-participants who would like to participate.

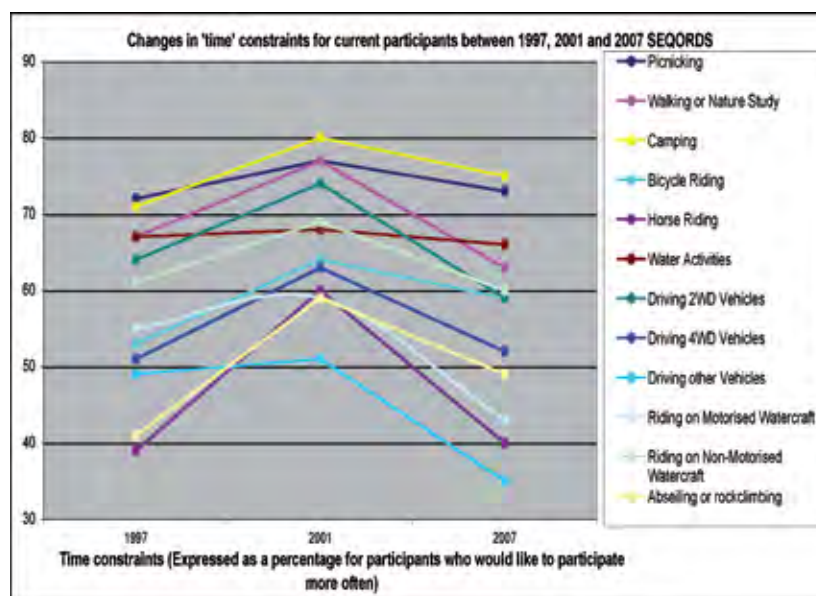
A further important aspect that cannot be examined in the current study is an examination of changes in non-participants who do not want to participate. In other words the characteristics of people who do not participate and have no intention of participating may indicate reasons for observed changes in the SEQORDS. These people may have participated in the past and determining why they currently do not participate is an important aspect to consider in assessing present recreational opportunity and forecasting demand. Unfortunately this aspect cannot be analysed in the SEQORDS or Trends Analysis. This aspect should be included in future research into outdoor recreation demand.

8.1 'Time' constraints

Figure 12 shows the changes in 'time' constraints for current participants who would like to participate more often across the three studies.

Figure 12 shows there has been a general increase in the number of people reporting 'time' as a major constraint in the 2001 and the 2007 SEQORDS. However, four activities decreased from 1997 to 2007. These were driving 2wd vehicles, riding motorised and non motorised watercraft and walking or nature

Figure 12: Changes in 'time' constraints for current participants between 1997, 2001 and 2007 SEQORDS



study. Thus, in 2007 people involved in these activities generally reported that they are less constrained by 'time' as the primary reason why they could not participate further in the activity compared to 1997. If constraints were the only determinant of the frequency of participation then one would expect there to be an increase in these activities. However this is not the case. Other constraints must therefore be at play because there is decrease in frequency rates for these activities.

For driving 2wd vehicles, riding motorised and non motorised watercraft and walking or nature study, a rise in other constraints can

explain the decrease in frequency of participation. The constraints that have increased for these activities are:

- 'Family constraints' and 'health' (walking or nature study);
- 'Nowhere to go' (driving 2wd vehicles and non motorised watercraft);
- Lack of 'equipment' (motorised watercraft).

In almost all other activities the participants in 2007 indicate that 'time' has increased as a constraint that impedes further participation if 1997 is used as a benchmark. This indicates that 'time' can be used to explain the decreases in frequency rates.

Section 8

Changing constraints cont.

Figure 13: Changes in 'time' constraints for non-participants between 1997, 2001 and 2007 SEQORDS

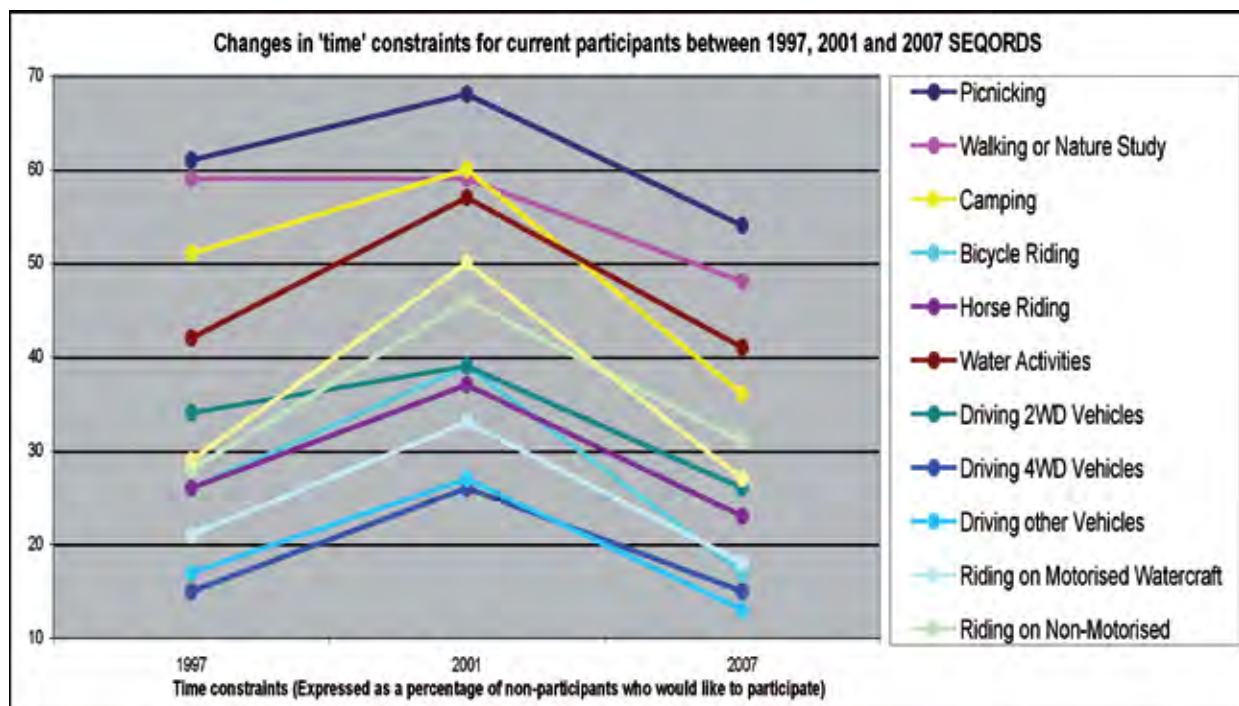


Figure 13 shows that in 2007 the number of non-participants who would like to participate is either less than or the same for all activities (except non motorised water craft which increased). The spike in the number of people reporting 'time' as a major constraint in 2001 can be explained by methodological sampling issues⁵ or other factors increasing as a constraint. The major conclusions from the analysis of both types of participants are:

- Current participants find that 'time' plus other contextual issues related to the attributes of the activities are a major constraint to further participation. In other words whilst 'time' is still an important issue, other constraints, particular to the activity have a major impact on frequency of participation;
- Non-participants find that 'time' is still a major constraint to participation;
- There was a slight decrease in the number of non-participants mentioning 'time' as a major issue for many activities;
- 'Time' issues have less of an impact on latent participation than current participation; and
- Other constraints are increasingly more important reasons for non-participation.

⁵ The 25–39 and 40–54 age groups were over sampled in 2001 and these groups are the most time poor of all age groups

8.2 'Nowhere to go' constraint

In this section the constraint of 'nowhere to go' is described. In the 2007 SEQORDS an increase in this constraint for many activities was noted particularly for current participants. These findings have major implications for planning and management of outdoor recreation opportunities. The changes noted in the SEQORDS are presented graphically below in Figure 14.

There are major changes in the results from the SEQORDS 2007 concerning the constraint – 'nowhere to go' – for participants who would like to participate more often and non-participants who would like to participate. The data that forms Figure 14 is presented in Table 8 below.

Figure 14: 'Nowhere to go' constraint for current participants and non-participants

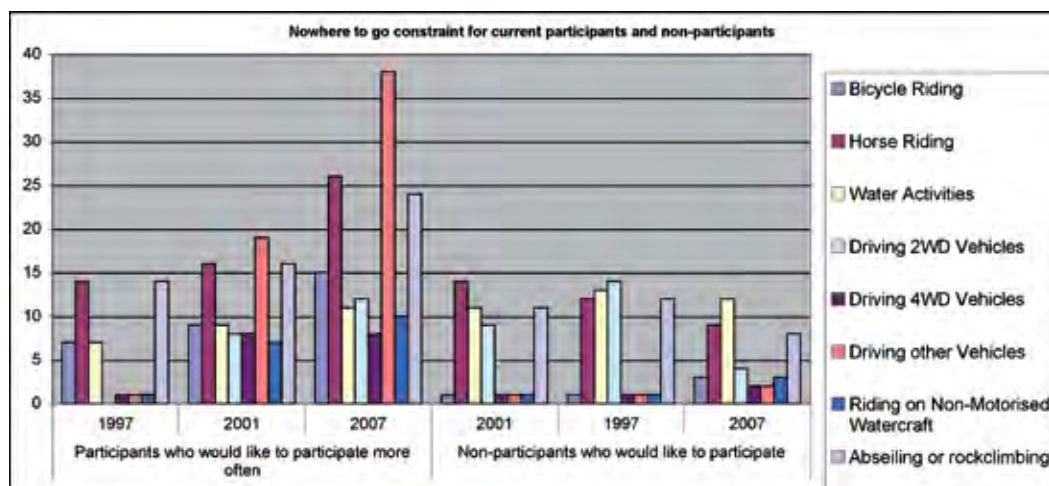


Table 8: Constraint – 'Nowhere to go' – for participants who would like to participate more often and non-participants who would like to participate

	% of participants who would like to participate more often			% of non-participants who would like to participate		
	1997	2001	2007	1997	2001	2007
Bicycle Riding	7	9	15	<1	<1	3
Horse Riding	14	16	26	12	14	9
Water Activities	7	9	11	13	11	12
Driving 2WD Vehicles	<1	8	12	14	9	4
Driving 4WD Vehicles	<1	8	8	<1	<1	2
Driving other Vehicles	<1	19	38	<1	<1	2
Riding on Non-Motorised Watercraft	<1	7	10	<1	<1	3
Abseiling/Rock-climbing	14	16	24	12	11	8

Section 8

Changing constraints cont.

From both Figure 14 and Table 8 there are large percentage changes in the constraint of 'nowhere to go' for all activities. To illustrate the changes in more detail the current participants are shown in Figure 15 and the non-participants are displayed in Figure 16.

The conclusion for current participants in outdoor recreation is that there is an increasing perception in SEQ of fewer places and opportunities to undertake outdoor recreation activities. This will most likely have impacted on the frequency of participation rates for all activities. The reason for this is that current participants know the constraint from direct experience and adjust their recreation behaviour accordingly. Of particular concern is the increase in other vehicle users expressing there is nowhere to do this activity. Land managers and planners need to pay particular attention to this phenomenon given the increases rates of participation and frequency of participation in this activity.

For non-participants the constraint 'nowhere to go' is either decreasing or stable. The difference between the two types of participants can be explained through the difference in knowledge of constraints. The people who currently participate experience firsthand the lack of places to do the activities. This experiential knowledge would not be apparent to non-participants. This conclusion lends weight to the argument that there is an appearance of ample opportunities for outdoor recreation

Figure 15: Changes to 'Nowhere to go' constraint for current participants who would like to participate more often between 1997, 2001 and 2007

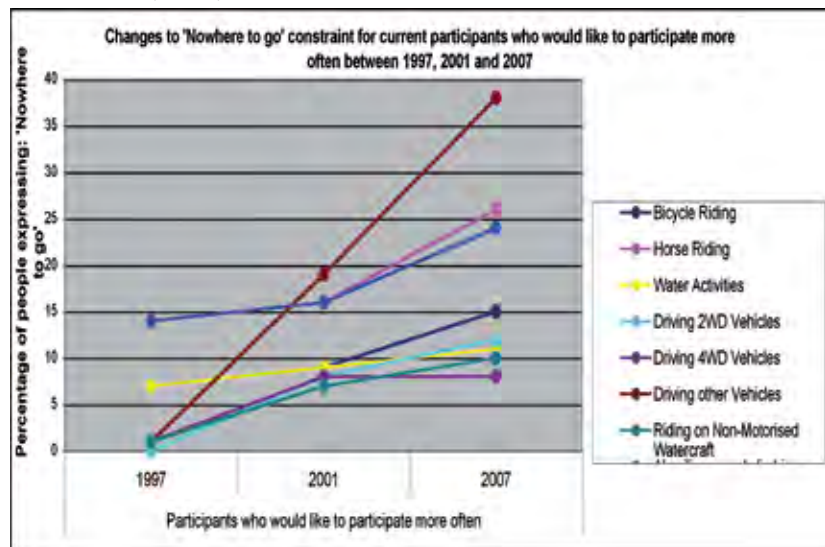
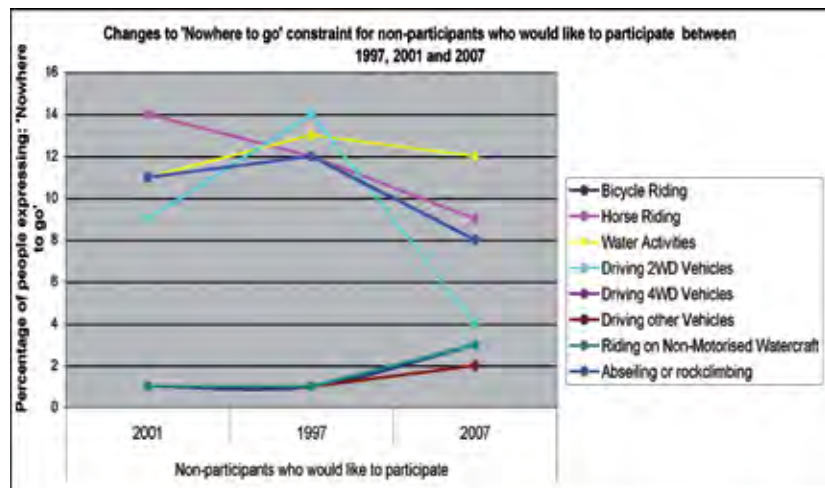


Figure 16: Changes to 'Nowhere to go' constraint for non-participants who would like to participate between 1997, 2001 and 2007



in SEQ but the reality for people who presently participate is that there are decreasing opportunities to recreate due to lack of places to undertake their activities.

8.3 'Family responsibilities' constraint

'Family responsibilities' were identified as an increasing constraint in 2007 SEQORDS. Figure 17 shows the changes in 'family' constraints across the three studies.

The conclusion from these figures is that 'family' constraints for current participants and non-participants are increasing. This indicates that 'family' constraints contribute to the activities that had a decline between 2001-2007 in the frequency of participation and rates of participation.

For both current participants and non-participants who would like to participate more, there are general increases in 'family responsibilities' for all activities between 1997 and 2007. For non-participants there was a decrease in 'family' constraints between 1997 and 2001 for bicycle riding and picnicking, but this decline is reversed in 2007 where there was a substantial increase in both activities.

The notable increases for current participants and non-participants occurred in the activities of walking or nature study, picnicking and camping. It must be noted that on face value this seems contradictory because walking or nature study is an activity that could be seen as

Figure 17: Changes in 'family' constraints for current participants between 1997, 2001 and 2007

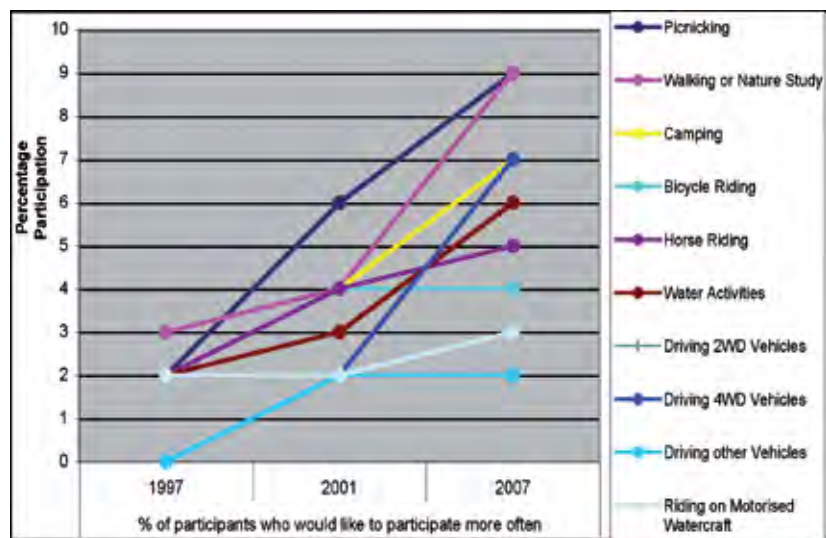
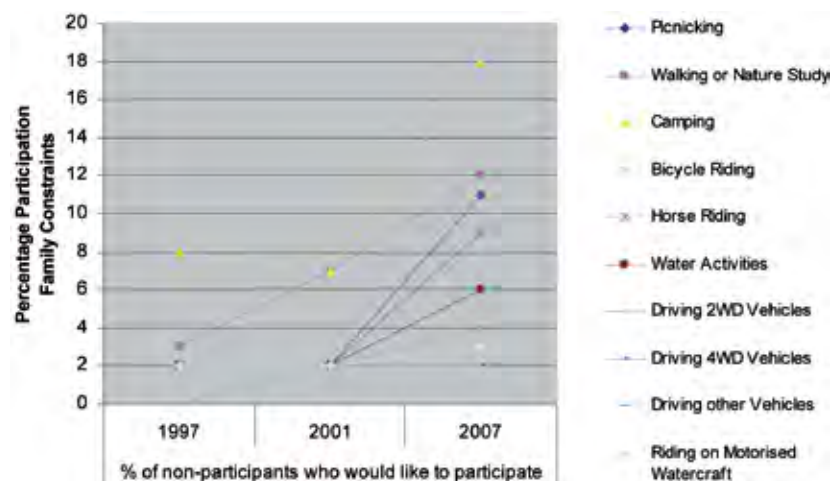


Figure 18: Changes in 'family' constraints for non-participants between 1997, 2001 and 2007



Section 8

Changing constraints cont.

inclusive of all age groups in families. However, many respondents said that their interest in these activities changed after their children had grown up or alternatively that their family members were not interested in outdoor activity. Also noted in the constraints statement in the interviews was an increase in home entertainment and computer based leisure within the 2007 SEQORDS. This is most likely to have had a large impact on the way individuals and families engage in leisure pursuits.

8.4 'Health' constraint

'Health' constraints were determined from statements made in the interviews. Such statements included: lack of fitness; mobility issues; injury and other chronic ailments. Figures 19 and 20 show the changes in 'health' constraints across the three studies for participants and non-participants respectively.

For both participants who would like to participate more and non-participants who would like to participate there are increases in 'health' constraints. Many people reported they had injury and mobility issues. Lack of fitness as a 'health' constraint seemed to be an issue for a small number of people. These results indicate that the general decreases noted in the 2007 SEQORDS in participation rates and frequency of participation rates can be attributed to rises in health issues for the population of SEQ.

Figure 19: Changes in 'health' constraints for current participants between 1997, 2001 and 2007

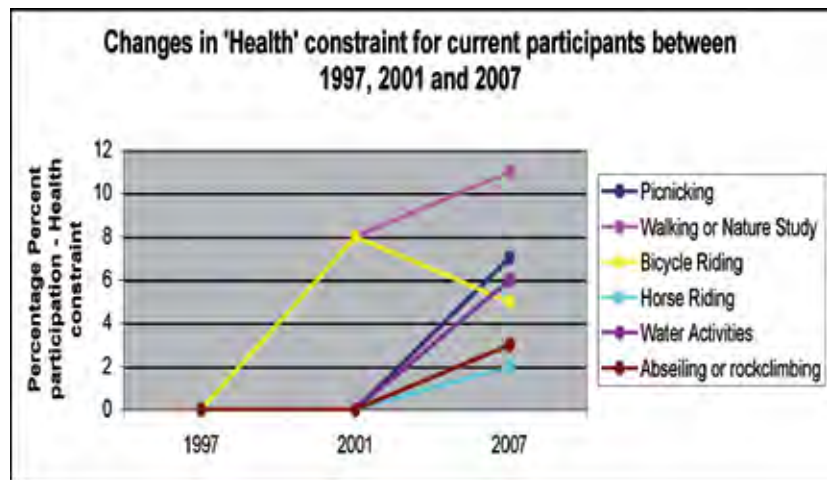
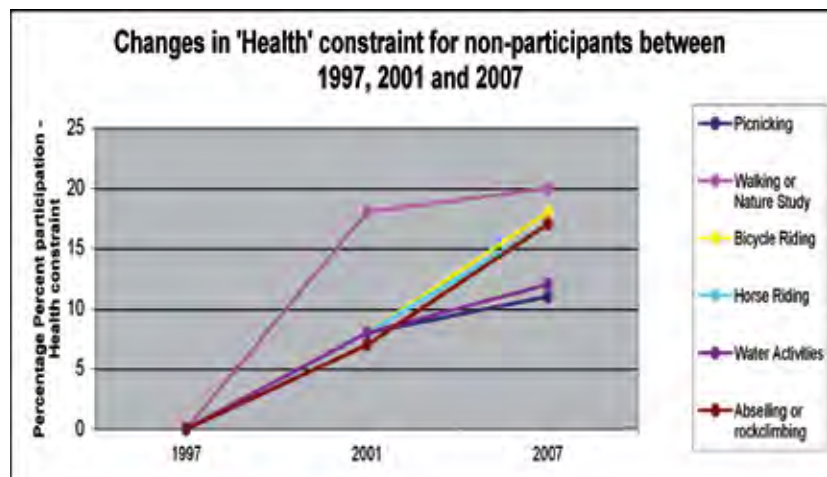


Figure 20: Changes in 'health' constraints for non-participants between 1997, 2001 and 2007



The reason for this is that the decrease in 'time' constraints corresponds to an increase in other constraints such as 'health'. 'Health' constraint have a more enduring effect on frequency of participation of current participants, as well as potential participants' involvement in activities, and thus the increase in reported health issues has a larger impact on participation and frequency rates.

This finding is of concern for the health and well-being of the SEQ population, especially if the decline in physically active forms of outdoor recreation is taken into consideration. (See section 11)

8.5 'Cost' constraints

Figure 21 shows the 'cost' constraints for current participants who would like to participate more often. The cost for current participants is mostly 'operational' costs in that the initial purchase of equipment such as a bike for riding bicycles has already occurred.

Generally costs have risen as a constraint for all activities. There was a slight decrease in the cost of driving other vehicles and driving 4wd vehicles. The greatest cost for current participants are costs associated with driving to the destination and other fees and equipment usage costs. The rise in cost may have had an impact on frequency of participating for current participants in some activities.

Figure 22 shows changes in 'cost' constraints for non-participants who would like to participate between 1997, 2001 and 2007.

Figure 21: Changes in 'cost' constraints for current participants between 1997, 2001 and 2007

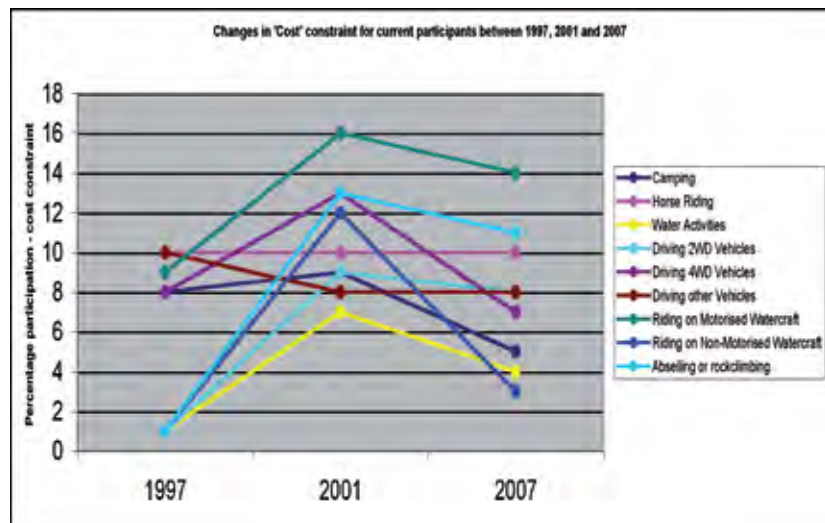
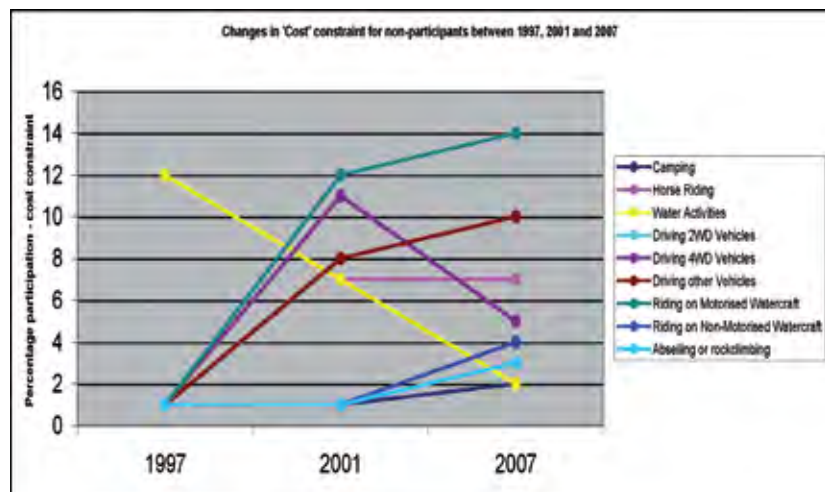


Figure 22: Changes in 'cost' constraints for non-participants between 1997, 2001 and 2007



Section 8

Changing constraints cont.

The figure indicates that apart from water activities there has been an increase in the 'cost' constraint for all activities between 1997 and 2007. There was a decrease in 'cost' constraints in driving 4wd vehicles between 2001 and 2007 but the 'cost' constraint is still higher than the 1997 level. Increases in driving 4wd vehicles may reflect the larger range of smaller more affordable 4wd vehicles now available. From the data it is apparent that cost is an issue that can help explain the decrease in participation rates and frequency as noted between the 2001 and 2007 SEQORDS.

The conclusion from these figures is that for current participants cost is a small but increasing issue constraining further participation. For non-participants there are more people reporting 'cost' as a constraint to participation. This may explain the decrease in participation rates of some activities. This is especially so for those activities with high 'start up' costs and perceived high operational costs.

8.6 'Equipment' constraints

Figure 23 shows the changes in 'equipment' constraints for non-participants who would like to participate more.

The impact from 'equipment' constraints of people who would like to participate more on frequency of participation is mixed. In some cases there is an increase in constraints which would lead to a decrease in frequency, whereas in other cases there is a decrease in constraints which would lead to current participants not being constrained by 'equipment' issues. However, for non-participants who would like to participate it is a different story.

Figure 23: Changes in 'equipment' constraints for current participants between 1997, 2001 and 2007

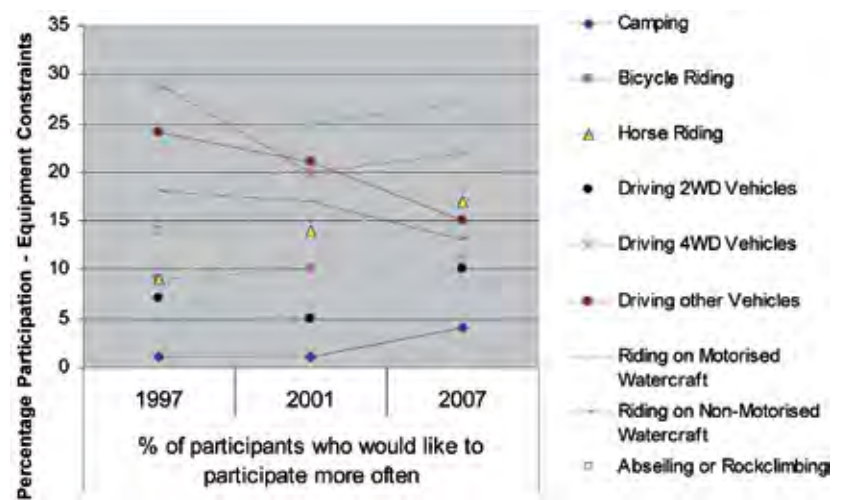


Figure 24: Changes in 'equipment' constraints for non-participants between 1997, 2001 and 2007

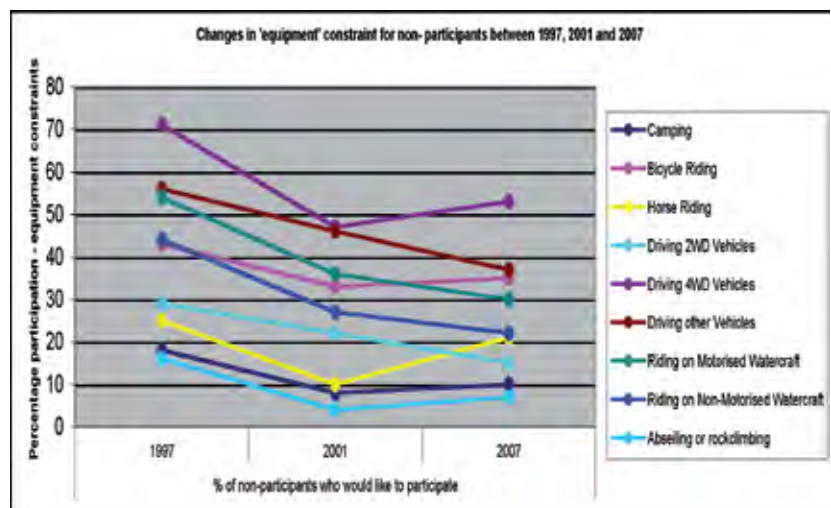


Table 9: Other constraints that influenced the decrease in participation rates and frequency of participation.
 (Note: 'Time' is still the dominant constraint but changes to other constraints may reveal reasons for observed changes)

	Contributed to decline	Did not contribute to decline
Reasons for decline in frequency related to current participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nowhere to go • Family • Health • Equipment constraints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost
Reasons for decline in participation (and frequency) related to constraints of non-participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family • Health • Cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nowhere to go • Equipment constraints

For non-participants in all activities there has been a trend of 'equipment' constraints decreasing between 1997 and 2007. This indicates that increasingly other constraints are perceived to be more of an issue for people who do not participate in outdoor recreation. It also indicates that a decrease in equipment does not lead to an increase in participation rates and frequency rates. Other factors are more relevant in explaining the decrease in participation rates and frequency of participation for many of the activities over the period of the three studies.

8.7 Summary of constraints

A summary of the constraints that explain the general trend of declining rates of participation and frequency of participation is given here. For specific changes within individual activities and the reasons for these changes please refer to Section 12: Changes in Selected Outdoor Recreation Activities.

Current Participants and Impacts on Frequency of Participation

Changes in constraints that **contributed** to a decreased frequency of participation were:

- 'Nowhere to go';
- 'Family';
- 'Health'; and
- 'Equipment' constraints.

(Note: these constraints are most relevant for current participants who would like to participate more)

Changes in constraints that **did not contribute** to a major decrease in frequency of participation were:

- 'Cost'.

(Note: This constraint is for current participants who would like to participate more)

Non-participants and Impacts on Participation Rates

The following constraints are for non-participants who would like to participate but were constrained in some way. An increase in the number of people reporting these constraints has an impact on activities that experienced a decrease in participation rates. An increase in non-participants corresponds to a decrease in current participant rates of participation.

Changes in constraints that **contributed** to a decrease in participation rates and possibly frequency of participation were:

- 'Family';
- 'Health'; and
- 'Cost'.

Changes in constraints that **did not contribute** to decreased participation rates and possibly frequency of participation were:

- 'Nowhere to go'; and
- 'Equipment' constraints.

Table 9 displays the summary of constraints that have impacted on the observed decline in participation rates and frequency of participation between 2001 and 2007.

The findings presented above must be viewed within the limitations of a constraints approach to understanding general activity participation. This approach is useful if constraints are the only limiting feature contributing to the observed changes in participation and frequency of participation.

The constraints approach does not explore how individual desires or socially constructed preferences lead to engagement in different forms of leisure and the competing decisions individuals must make within limited time budgets.

Section 9

Recreation setting trends

In the 2007 SEQORDS it was identified that a large proportion of outdoor recreation participants expressed a preference for recreation settings which are more *natural* than the places currently being used. In this section this trend will be examined in more detail across the three SEQORDS.

The research question in this section is:

What are the factors that explain the continuing trends and new developments in outdoor recreation setting use and preference in SEQ?

To answer this question, first, the changes in recreation settings trends need to be examined across the three studies.

9.1 Changes in recreation settings

In the 2007 SEQORDS it was noted that a significant proportion of current participants in all activities would prefer to recreate in settings which are more *natural* than the places where they currently recreate. However, it was suggested that the results should be re-interpreted in many activities as a preference for settings that people perceive to be more *natural* than the settings they currently use while still allowing motorised vehicles or vessels to be part of the setting. It was also suggested that there may be some inconsistent interpretation of the concept of “naturalness” as used in the three SEQORDS. Notwithstanding these inconsistencies there is merit in examining the changes that have occurred between the three surveys.

The apparent preference for recreation settings which are more *natural* than the places currently being used by a large proportion of outdoor recreation participants has been maintained in all three SEQORDS. There have also been changes in usage and preference for *somewhat natural settings*. These changes need further description and analysis. The 1997, 2001 and 2007 data on changes in setting use and preference for current participants is examined below.

Figure 25 shows the setting use and preference for current participants. The data is presented as an average of the aggregated rates of all activities. This will show general trends in use and recreation setting preference for all activities.

Figure 25: Average of current and preferred settings for all activities from the 1997 SEQORDS

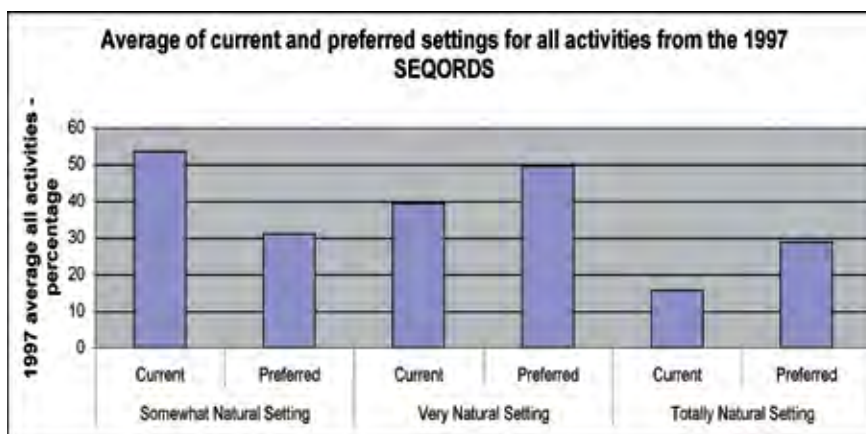


Figure 25 shows that when all the activities are averaged, current participants who use *somewhat natural* settings display less preference for participating in *somewhat natural* setting (if they had a chance to participate more in the activity). If participants thought that this setting was adequate for their purpose of outdoor recreation there should at least be some similarity in the averaged score for *somewhat natural* use and preference.

For *very natural* and *totally natural* settings, the preference is for more *natural* settings (if given the chance to participate more in the activity). Figures 26, 27 and 28 show the differences between current and preferred use of the three different recreation settings for all activities in 1997, 2001 and 2007.

Figure 26: 1997 current and preferred *somewhat natural* setting use for all activities

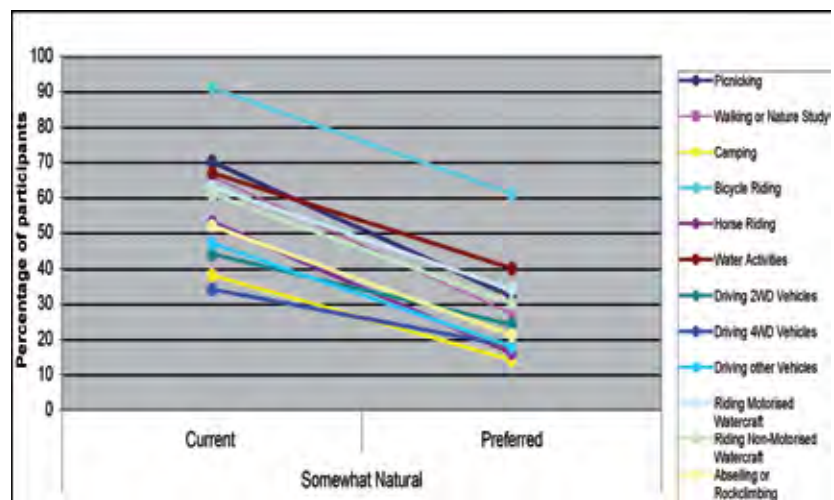
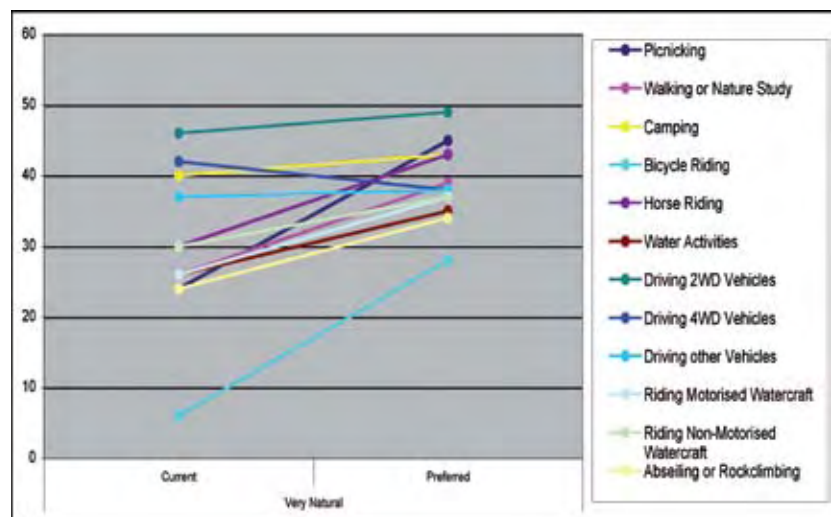


Figure 27: 1997 current and preferred *very natural* setting use for all activities



Section 9

Recreation setting trends cont.

Figure 29 shows that when all the activities are averaged (for the 2001 SEQORDS) that the use and preference of current participants display similar characteristics to the 1997 data.

People generally prefer more *natural* settings than those they currently use. This is despite the largest use of setting occurring in the *somewhat natural* setting. It is interesting to note that the *very natural* setting has the least difference between use and preference, indication that more people using *very natural* settings are satisfied with this setting for their current activity. The following figures display the data that led to the above averaged changes.

Figure 28: 1997 current and preferred *totally natural* setting use for all activities

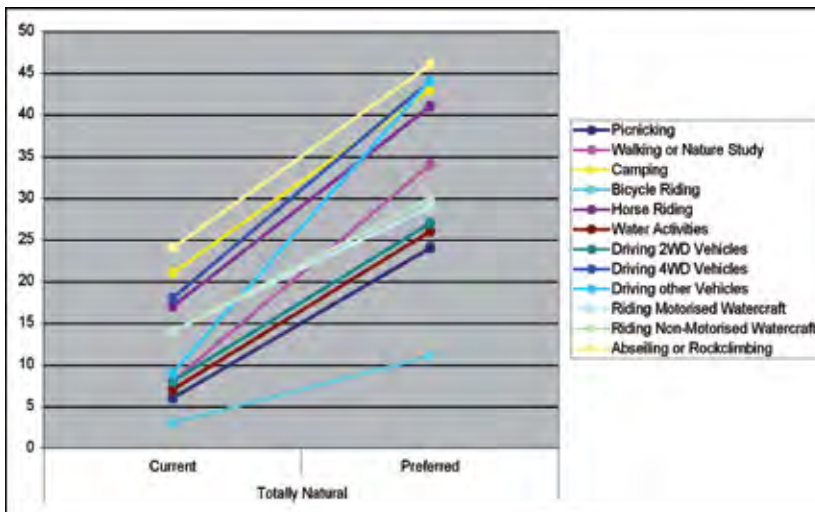
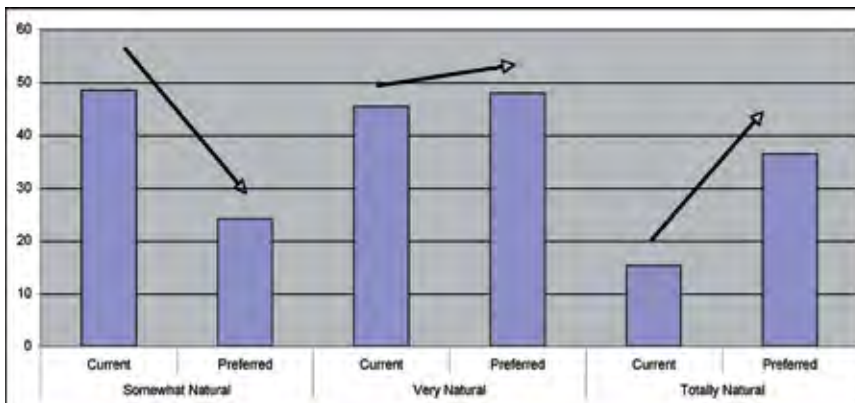


Figure 29: Average of current and preferred settings for all activities from the 2001 SEQORDS



Figures 30, 31 and 32 show the differences between current and preferred use of settings for each activity in 2001.

Figure 30: 2001 current and preferred *somewhat natural* setting use for all activities

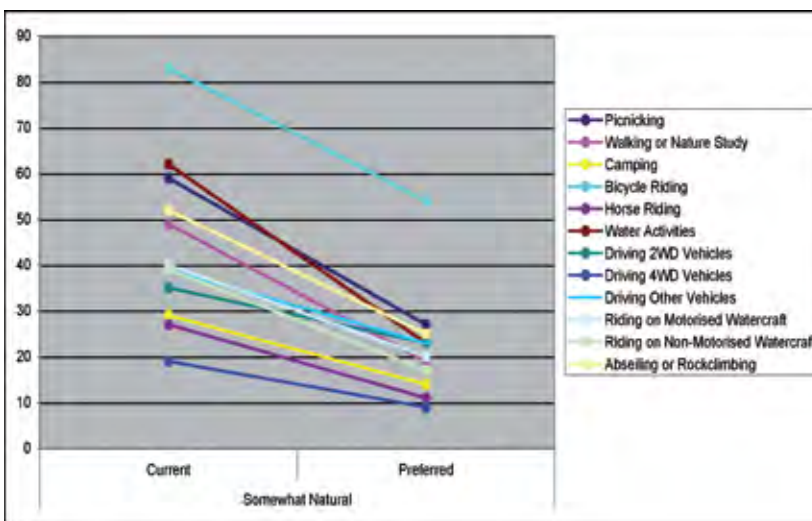
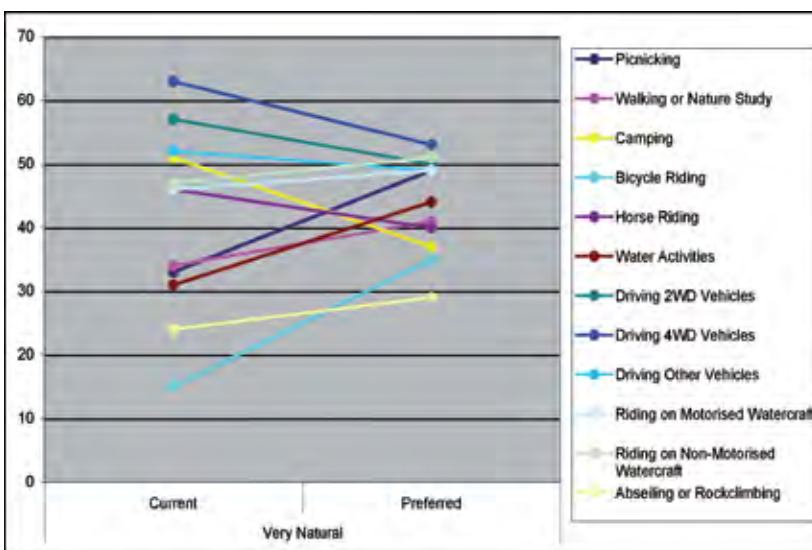


Figure 31: 2001 current and preferred *very natural* setting use for all activities



Section 9

Recreation setting trends cont.

Figure 32: 2001 current and preferred *totally natural* setting use for all activities

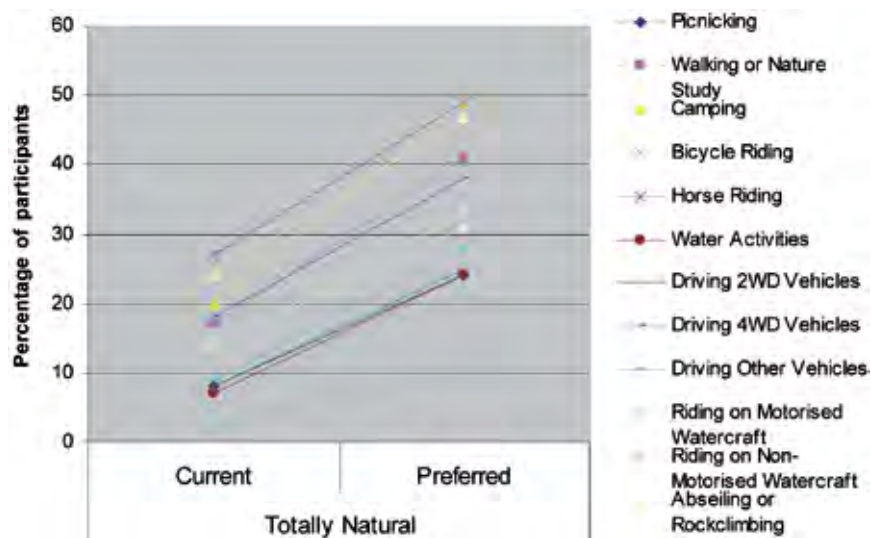
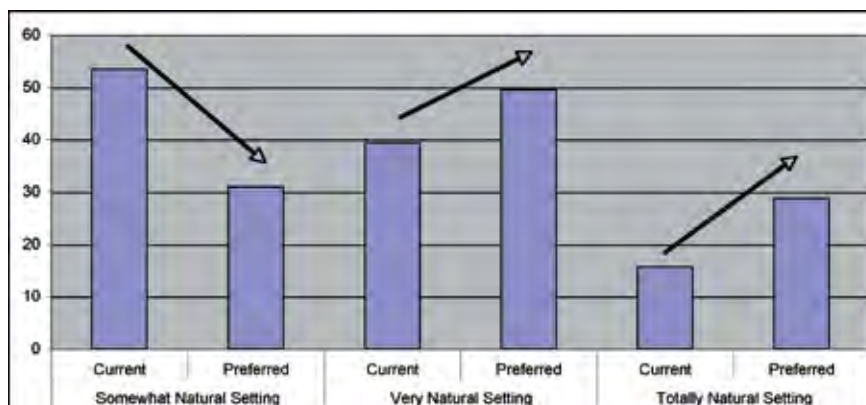


Figure 33 shows that when all the activities are averaged (for the 2007 SEQORDS) that the use and preference of current participants display changes to current and preferred settings compared to 2001 and 1997.

Figure 33 shows that the trend in use and preference is similar to the 1997 and 2001 findings. However, the differences are that *somewhat natural* settings are now preferred more than *totally natural* settings and the current use of *very natural* settings is lower than in 2001.

Figure 33: Average of current and preferred settings for all activities from the 2007 SEQORDS



The following figures display the data that led to the above averaged changes.

Figure 34: 2007 current and preferred *somewhat natural* setting use for all activities

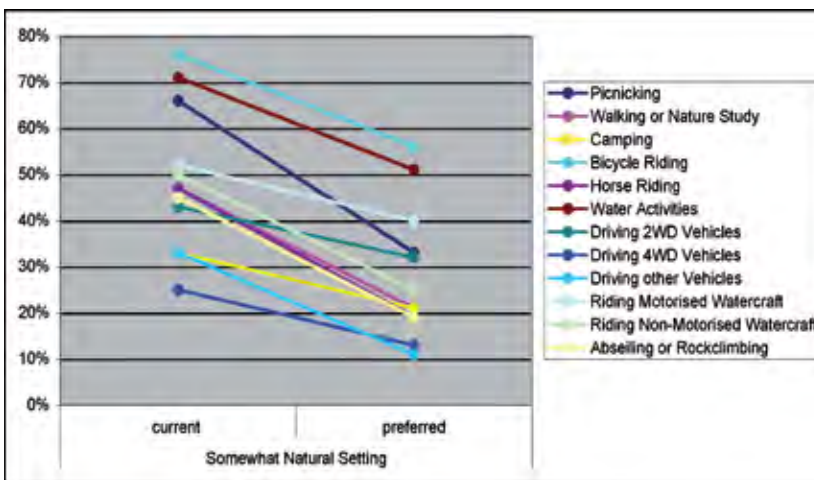
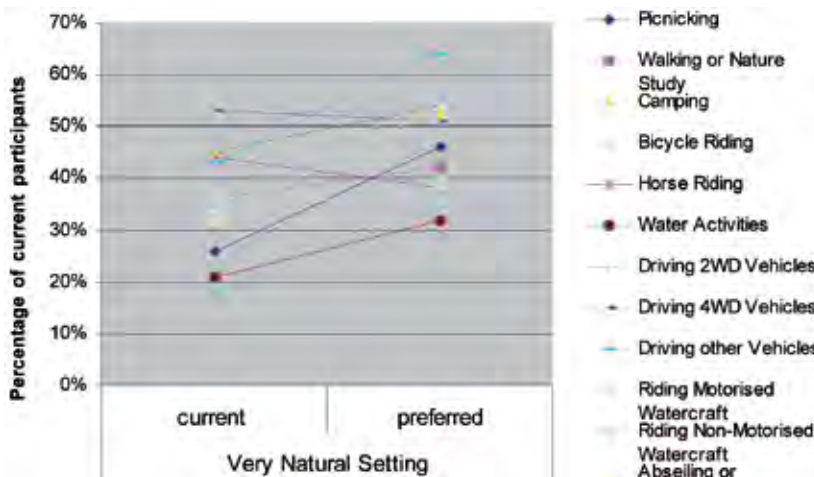


Figure 35: 2007 current and preferred *very natural* setting use for all activities



Section 9

Recreation setting trends cont.

To demonstrate the change more graphically the average of the settings over the three SEQORDS are presented in Figures 37 to 39. Figure 37 shows the average of all activities for *somewhat natural* settings over the three studies.

These results indicate a trend towards an increase in the preference for *somewhat natural* settings. The reason for the rise can be attributed to a number of possible factors. The factors relate to the changes in other setting use and preference results.

These factors may include:

- People now acknowledge that *somewhat natural* settings are increasingly acceptable places for certain outdoor recreation activities;
- Increased constraints ('nowhere to go' and 'cost') lead to *somewhat natural* settings becoming an easier setting to access;
- People now accept that *totally natural* settings have more constraints associated with the use of that setting compared to *somewhat natural*. This may link to changes in the level of acceptance for *somewhat natural* settings for certain outdoor recreation activities.

Figure 36: 2007 current and preferred 3 setting use for all activities

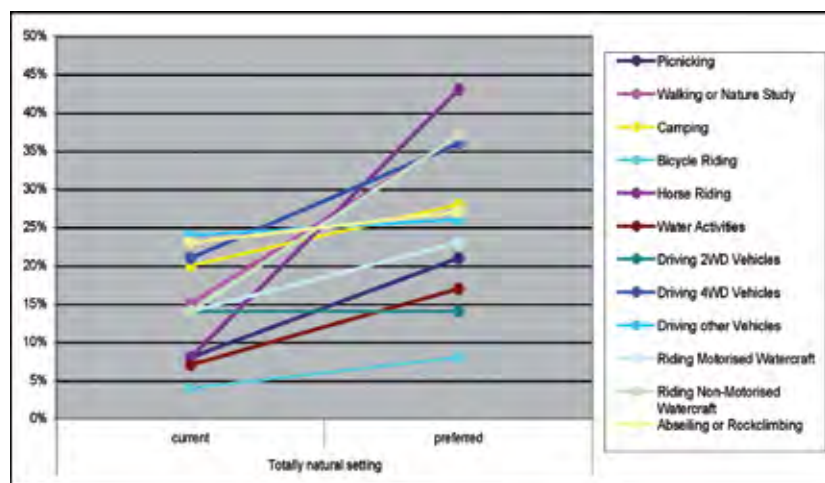
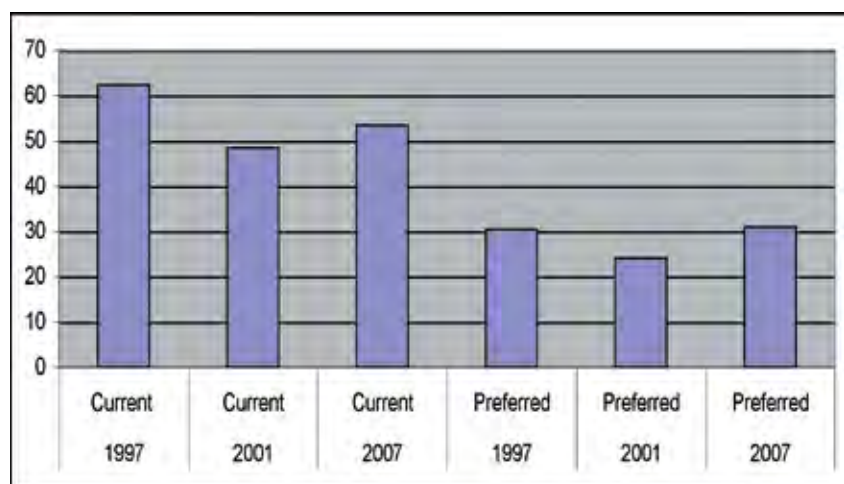


Figure 37: The average of all activities for *somewhat natural* settings over the three studies



The average of all activities for *very natural* settings over the three studies is shown in Figure 38.

Figure 38 shows that use of *very natural* settings has increased between 1997 and 2007 and there has also been an increase in preference for this setting. The reason for this rise in preference for current participants can be attributed to a number of possible factors. The factors may relate to the changes in other setting use and preference results.

These factors may include:

- People who once used *very natural* settings now use *somewhat natural* settings. This is evident in the decrease between 2001 and 2007 for *very natural* settings and the rise between 2001 and 2007 in *somewhat natural* settings;
- Interestingly, the rise in preference of current participants for *very natural* settings infers that the smaller number of people who now use *very natural* settings would like to undertake their activities in more *natural* settings;
- There has been a shift in users of *very natural* to *somewhat natural* settings.

The average of all activities for *totally natural* settings over the three studies is shown in Figure 39.

Figure 38: The average of all activities for *very natural* settings over the three studies

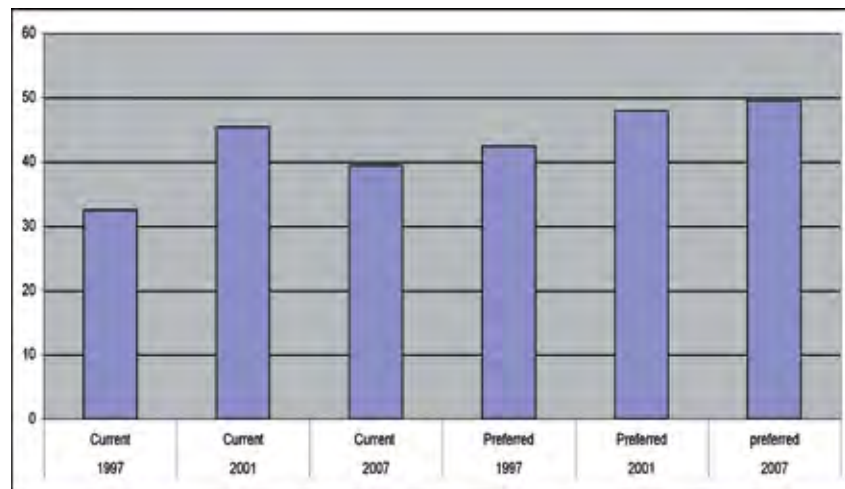
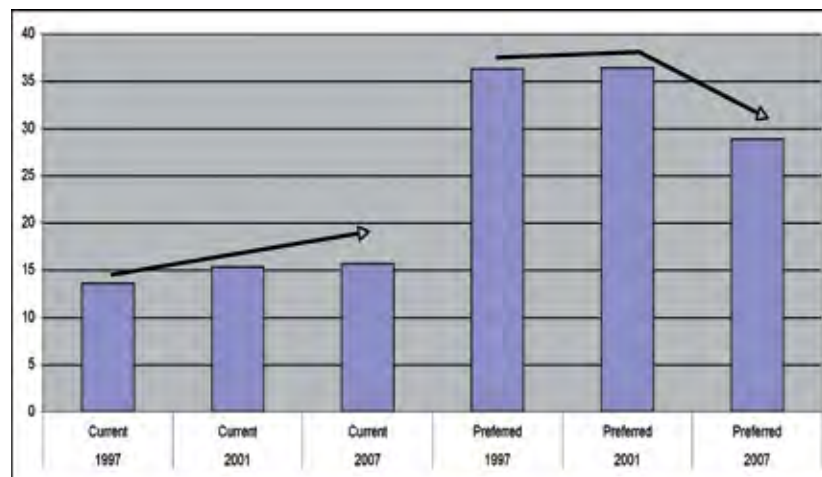


Figure 39: The average of all activities for *totally natural* settings over the three studies



Section 9

Recreation setting trends cont.

Figure 39 indicates that whilst use of *totally natural* settings has increased slightly there is a small decrease in preference for this setting. The reason for the rise in use and decrease in preference for current participants can be attributed to a number of possible factors. The factors may relate to the changes in other setting use and preference results.

These factors may include:

- People who have changed in their preference from *totally natural* settings may now accept that *very natural* and possibly *somewhat natural* settings are settings that are suitable for their outdoor recreation activities.

To summarise the above results the increase in use of *totally natural* settings and increased preference of *very natural* settings is an indication

that despite the impact of constraints on outdoor recreation there is a continued desire for settings that are more natural settings. The changes for current participants in use and preference for *somewhat natural* settings is an issue that warrants further investigation. Many of the people in this category once preferred *very natural* settings but now accept *somewhat natural* settings as places in which to undertake their activities. The exact causes of the changes and the probable link to the constraints of 'cost' and 'nowhere to go' need to be examined in light of the future challenges caused by population growth in SEQ.



Section 10

'Nowhere to go' and recreation settings

In this section the constraint of 'nowhere to go' will be examined in the light of recreation settings. The aim of this is to determine whether there are particular constraints that have certain impacts on recreation settings. Current participants and non participants will be examined.

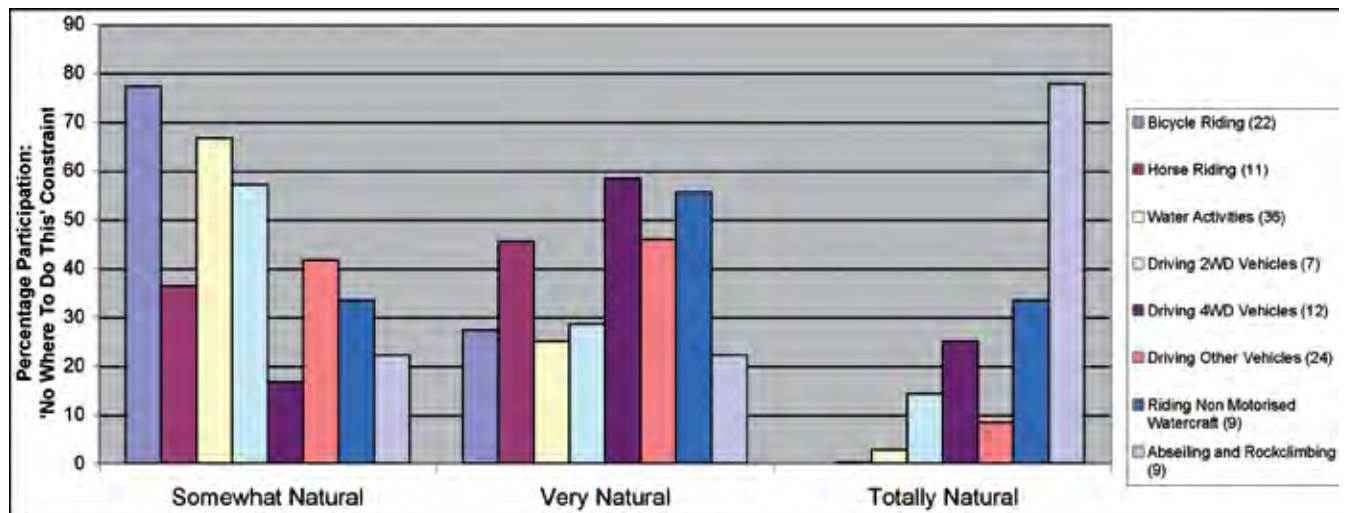
10.1 Current participants: 'nowhere to go' and settings for 2007

In this section the relationship between the constraint 'nowhere to go' and the setting in which the activity has taken place is analysed. The research question posed for this topic is:

Determine the setting preferences of people who currently participate and stated 'nowhere to go' as a major constraint to further participation?

The rationale for choosing to examine this aspect in more detail stems from the impacts of growth in SEQ. The impacts of population growth on opportunities for outdoor recreation are evident in findings of changes in setting preference that correspond to 'nowhere to go'. Figure 40 shows the participation rate within the settings for people in the various activities who stated 'nowhere to go' as a major constraint to further participation.

Figure 40: Rates of current participation for the constraint 'nowhere to go' in the different recreation settings (Number of respondents noted in brackets)



(Note: There is less than 1% for bicycle riding and horse riding *totally natural* settings)

This figure shows the rates of current participation for the constraint 'nowhere to go' in the different recreation settings. The major conclusion that can be drawn from this data is that the *very natural* setting has a large proportion of participants in all activities stating that they are constrained by 'nowhere to go' in this setting. Five out of the eight activities had higher constraint scores in *very natural* settings compared to *somewhat natural* or *totally natural*.

Section 10

'Nowhere to go' and recreation settings cont.

A further issue to analyse is whether or not the constraint of 'nowhere to go' differs to the 'average' participation rates in these settings. The current participation rate in the three settings can be used as a benchmark to examine if the participation of those mentioning this constraint in each of the settings is different. Figure 41 shows the difference between current participants' use of a particular setting compared to the use of the different settings by current participants who stated that the major constraint to doing the activity more was the 'nowhere to go' constraint.

Figure 41 shows that participants who undertook activities in the *somewhat natural* setting were less likely to state the 'nowhere to go' constraint as a reason for not participating more. However, people who used *totally natural* settings were more likely to state that 'nowhere to do this' was a major reason that hindered further participation. In other words, the more natural the setting, the more likelihood that people would be constrained by not having the opportunity or the place in which to undertake the given activity. However, it must be noted that this conclusion is based on averaged data. Individual analysis of activities would need to verify this conclusion about a particular activity.

Figure 41: The difference between current participants setting use compared with current participants use who stated the constraint 'where to go'

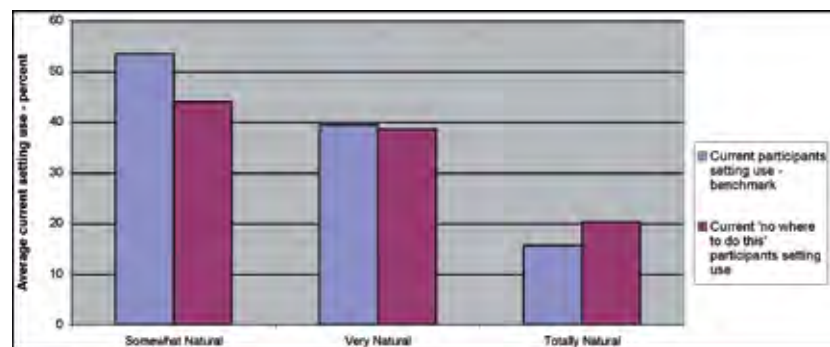


Figure 42: Number of current participants in picnicking who expressed 'nowhere to go' and their use and preference of settings in 2007

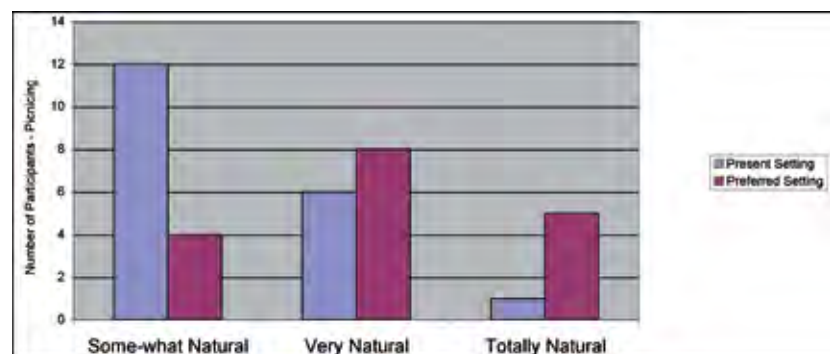
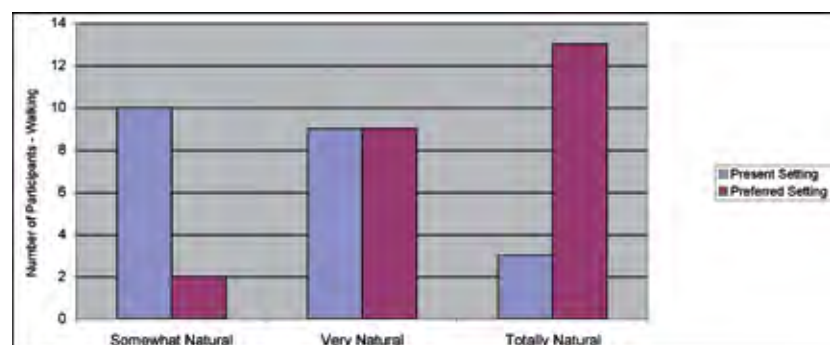


Figure 43: Number of current participants in picnicking who expressed 'nowhere to go' and their use and preference of settings in 2007



10.2 Selected activities, setting and the constraint 'nowhere to go'

The following data presents selected activities for the constraint 'nowhere to go' and the setting of the activity. The aim of presenting this data is to examine what type of setting is becoming more difficult for people to use and to see what setting preference these people have. The activities of picnicking, walking or nature study as well as camping have been chosen.

10.2.1 Picnicking, 'nowhere to go' and settings for 2007

Figure 42 shows how the constraint 'nowhere to go' relates to the recreation setting for picnicking 2007.

A list of constraints that people stated in the interviews are presented to aid in interpretation of the problems people face in accessing the different settings:

- The crowds where we tend to go / it is too crowded – and therefore the facilities are inadequate;
- Lack of access – I live on the Gold Coast and it's difficult to get out to decent countryside;
- Access to very natural areas is unavailable;
- There is really nowhere around here to do it;
- We have two little dogs that we like to take with us and it is difficult to find places that let you take dogs;
- Hard to get out places;
- Limited availability of sites

where we can combine motocross and picnicking;

- Not many areas available or around for that;
- Not enough locations convenient for me;
- Not being able to access places easily;
- There is not that much around the local area to go to;
- Well I live at Kelvin Grove and I run 6 kms every night/the oval has been cut in half and made it a carpark/so there is virtually nothing left/they have knocked down a lot of the natural trees;
- The lack of knowledge of the kind of country we would like to picnic in without travelling considerable distances;
- I would need more disabled car parks to access some areas;
- Not many places that have natural settings within 4 hours drive; and
- Distance.

10.2.2 Walking and nature study, 'nowhere to go' and settings for 2007

Figure 43 shows how the constraint 'nowhere to go' relates to the recreation setting for walking or nature study 2007.

A list of constraints that people stated in the interviews are presented to aid in interpretation of the problems people face in accessing the different settings:

- Need permit to go into Nature Reserve;
- Used to live in Victoria and find that Qld has less access to good areas – State forests

etc. You have to pay to go to a lot of places here;

- Distance to areas (Mt Warning);
- There is not much bush where I live;
- Nice to be able to walk closer to home;
- Not close enough to location;
- I am not near a beach;
- We live in urban area and there is not much to explore;
- Lack of access to very natural areas;
- Lack of places of go to do it;
- There is no nature walks around here;
- That the trails aren't closer to me;
- Do not drive so none close by to me;
- Can't take dog into nature reserves;
- Access/lack of access to natural areas;
- Not enough of the areas around that are close by without driving – that are totally natural;
- We like to take the dogs with us and there is a lack of places where we can take them;
- We have a dog which limits where we can go;
- Distance to travel;
- Would like to do more walking in totally natural environment but it is difficult to get away that far and that often;
- Travel distances/time; and
- There aren't many nature reserves left around my area that are still preserved.

Section 10

'Nowhere to go' and recreation settings cont.

10.2.3 Camping, 'nowhere to go' and settings for 2007

Figure 44 shows how the constraint 'nowhere to go' relates to the recreation setting for camping in 2007.

A list of constraints that people stated in the interviews are presented to aid in interpretation of the problems people face in accessing the different settings:

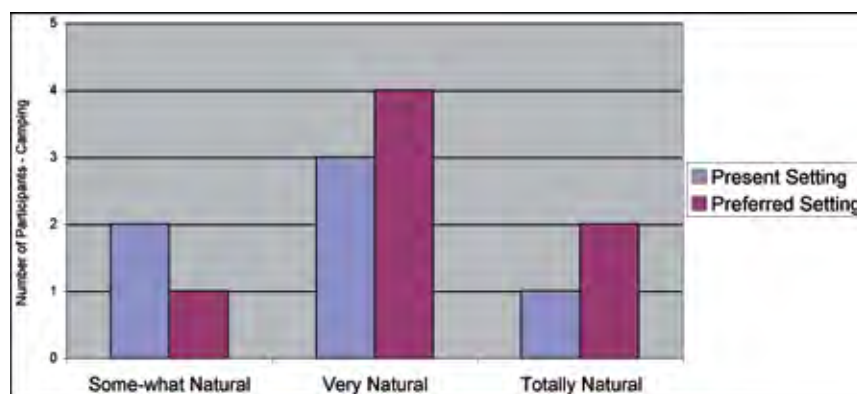
- Lack of interesting places to go where you can get away, lack of wilderness;
- There are lot of people around whenever we go camping here in Qld;
- Lack of assessable sights;
- Forestry areas banned for camping;
- Places to go and distance to travel to get to places; and
- The place I like going to camp is too far.

10.2.4 Non-participants, constraint 'nowhere to go' and setting

An analysis was undertaken to examine non-participants who reported there was nowhere to go in particular settings. However, due to low sample sizes the presentation of data is not possible.

However some observations can be made on the data in the three activities that had this constraint above 5% of the sample population. Riding bicycles, horse riding and

Figure 44: Number of current participants in camping who expressed 'nowhere to go' and their use and preference of settings in 2007



abseiling/rock-climbing had reported percentage constraints for 'nowhere to go' over 5% in 2007. Each of these will be described below.

For bicycle riding the setting in which the majority of the participants reported the constraint 'nowhere to go' was in the *somewhat natural* setting. The comments reflected the lack of bikeways or safe roads.

For horse riding the constraint of 'nowhere to go' was more relevant for people who preferred to undertake horse riding in *very natural* settings. The second most common setting preference for non-participants who expressed the constraint 'nowhere to go' was the *totally natural* setting.

For non-participants who would like to participate in abseiling/rock-climbing but were constrained by the constraint 'nowhere to go' there was a slight preference to undertake this activity in *totally natural* settings.

It must be noted that the constraint 'nowhere to go' for non-participants is considerably less than for current participants. It should also be noted that the 'nowhere to go' constraint is either stable or decreasing for the majority of activities for non-participants. These results indicate that people who do not undertake the activity do not know about the issues related to 'nowhere to go'. Current participants are more likely to report 'nowhere to go' as a constraint to further participation.

10.3 Summary of settings and the constraint 'nowhere to go'

Conclusions concerning setting use and preference, and the constraint 'nowhere to go' are as follows:

- People who used *totally natural* settings were more likely to state that 'nowhere to do this' was a major reason that hindered further participation;
- Participants who undertook activities in the *somewhat natural* setting were less likely to state the 'nowhere to go' constraint as a reason for not participating more;
- In other words, the more natural the setting, the more likelihood that people would be constrained by not having the opportunity or the place in which to undertake the given activity;
- Activities like camping and picnicking there is a greater preference for more natural settings compared walking or nature study; and
- People who do not undertake a particular activity do not know about the issues related to 'nowhere to go'. Current participants are more likely to report 'nowhere to go' as a constraint to further participation.

