

From: webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au
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 To: Economic Development Committee
 Subject: ONLINE SUBMISSION - 'Grey nomad tourism'
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Importance of grey nomads to the Queensland economy:

1. What economic contribution do grey nomads make to rural and regional areas of Queensland?
2. Are the available statistics on grey nomads in Queensland useful, current and accessible?

1. Having toured through rural Queensland with a caravan last year, we saw areas where once the wool industry had provided industries and employment but sadly now there are no sheep in the region. Towns such as Blackall and Isisford appear to be booming with tourism, because they encourage caravanners by providing low cost camping. Without this, these towns would be near ghost towns. In NSW we saw rural towns with just a row of empty old shops; this is the future for rural towns that cannot provide an alternative way of survival. 2. I am not aware of statistics pertaining specifically to Queensland.

Infrastructure requirements:

3. What are the public infrastructure requirements of grey nomads including health services, waste disposal sites and signage?
4. Is the current infrastructure for grey nomads in Queensland adequate? What additional infrastructure is required?

3. Town that welcome 'grey nomad' tourists provide dump points, sometimes water, a pleasant place to stay free or low costs with some or limited amenities, large drive through parking for caravans near the town's central business district, for which access it well signed from the main road. Please refer to the article on the CMCA website about their RV friendly town scheme; they have summarised the optimum needs. The article "Friendly Towns Boost Domestic Tourism" is on this link <http://www.cmca.net.au/pages/news/articles/documents/RVFT100MediaRelease-Final.pdf> 4. This varies town by town. In northern central Queensland, towns were catering better for caravanners with dump points (often at show grounds), low cost or free camping, amenities such as toilets, water and hot showers in the town. Chinchilla is another town where free camping is provided at the weir, including some free powered sites. People staying here rewarded the scheme at least to a minimum of providing low cost camping, toilets, dump point rubbish bins and caravan parking close to shops and tourist information centres with adequate signage.

Government coordination:

5. What are the major issues relating to the regulation of Queensland's camping and caravan parks?

5. We did not visit coastal Queensland last year, but read in the media about caravan parks and traditional free camping grounds being closed down. This is to the detriment of towns in these areas. As an example, Tasmania has some towns where designated free camps where at minimum pit toilets have been provided, often in good seaside or scenic locations. St Helens is one such town where a number of campsites are provided along the coastline. Fresh water, toilets and hot showers are available free at the Marina. Travellers stay for longer and Tasmanians holiday in the area, to the benefit of the businesses of St Helens.

Marketing and promotion:

6. What is the best method of marketing Queensland's rural and regional communities to grey nomad tourists?

6. Word of mouth from happy travellers, internet travel forums, and websites such as CMCA, free and low cost camping publications such as Camps Australia Wide <http://www.campsaustraliawide.com/index.php?page=16>

Utilisation of grey nomad skills in regional and rural Queensland:

7. How successful have existing programs been in utilising the skills of grey nomads in rural and regional Queensland?
8. What can the government do to encourage grey nomads to use their skills by undertaking work in rural and regional areas?
7. A number of nomadic travellers are looking for paid and/or voluntary work. Caravanners free camping at Lloyd Jones Weir near Barcaldine often stay some weeks while undertaking voluntary work in Barcaldine. Other caravanners have obtained voluntary work in Queensland but I am not aware of how they found it. 8. Provide free caravan accommodation with adequate amenities for long term stays for people who volunteer, and publicise where they can find out about voluntary jobs.

Comments:

As I cannot include attachments, please refer to the following articles on line: 1.

[http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Parliament/commit.nsf/\(Evidence+Lookup+by+Com+ID\)/75243BBB00921459C825765600130B52/\\$file/CCI+Submission+15.pdf](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Parliament/commit.nsf/(Evidence+Lookup+by+Com+ID)/75243BBB00921459C825765600130B52/$file/CCI+Submission+15.pdf). Please refer to the 2006 statistical article "Camping nights total 42 million" in the attachments of this document. 2. <http://www.cmca.net.au/pages/news/articles/documents/RVFT100MediaRelease-Final.pdf> Please refer to the article "Friendly towns boost tourism". 3. http://www.cmca.net.au/pages/about/government/economic_benefits/index.php. Please refer to the article "Self contained traveller" I am not a member of CMCA (Campervan and Motorhome Club), but I use their website and excellent articles as a resource, and applaud the work they are doing in getting more dump points and in setting up the RV Friendly town scheme. I am from Western Australia. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.