

Sub 12

Economic Development Committee

From: webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, 22 April 2010 8:23 PM
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. We spend our disposable income in places where we are made welcome... and made welcome in places other than caravan parks. CPs are only a small percentage of the businesses in rural and regional Qld.

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. See # 5 & 6. 4. Unlikely.

Government coordination:

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

Like many others, I am living on an allocated pension from my Super. There is only so much I can spend and I do not want to spend the majority of my income in caravan parks that I do not need as my motorhome is totally self-contained. I would rather spend it on groceries, more deli items, more cafes, restaurants and entertainment. There is much less for the rest of the businesses if I have to spend it all on accommodation.

Marketing and promotion:

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

Easy: offer what many of us afford and require -- 24-72 hour rest areas (that are not just dust bowls on the outskirts of town), perhaps a low cost (\$5 - \$7 pn) showground or sportsground area, a dump point and water if available (even if at a small fee for the water). Offering a crowded, expensive - and oft-times noisy - caravan park does *not* make a town attractive! My friends and I also look for dog-friendly cafes... and in recent years Qld has amended their laws so that we cannot even have that pleasure. No wonder so many of us are staying just south of the border in northern NSW.

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?

8: see #6.

Comments:

I hope you people do not let yourselves be bamboozled by lobbyists from the Caravan Park Assoc purporting to speak for "grey nomads." As with the rest of the population, "grey nomads" have a variety of likes & dislikes and are across all the socio-economic ranges. Even the nomads who enjoy using only caravan parks cannot find enough sites anymore. Lots of people I know are staying along coastal NSW north of Sydney instead of going to Qld like they used to.