

Sub 15

Economic Development Committee

From: webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, 22 April 2010 9:40 PM
To: Economic Development Committee
Subject: ONLINE SUBMISSION - 'Grey nomad tourism
ONLINE SUBMISSION - Grey nomad tourism

**Name:** Paul Elbourne**Email:** [REDACTED]**Address:** [REDACTED]**City:** Condon**State:** QLD**Postcode:** 4815**Phone Number:** [REDACTED]**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?

I have been a grey nomad for almost 5 years, travelling by caravan some 90,000k around Australia. Like most we average \$100 per day expenses.

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?

Main need is for dump points. There are two types of grey nomad - those who travel from caravan park to caravan park and those who travel from camp site to camp site, such as National Parks. If there is no camp site or National Park available, we will move to the next town. We are set up to be independent - we have 5 x 115w solar panels on our roof, have gas for cooking and hot water, carry 200 litres of water and have our own shower and toilet. We have a diesel heater to heat the van in winter. We chose independence because we dont like the crushed quarters in caravan parks and prefer the wide open spaces.

Government coordination:

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

Too many permanents in the parks Too many cabins Caravans and mobile home space is VERY limited and we get crushed together in the back of the park. They are now far too expensive for what you get. In holiday periods it is hard to get a space and prices often more than DOUBLE. In short, overpriced, overrated, overcrowded.

Marketing and promotion:

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

Tell them that we will spend over \$10 billion dollars next year - do they want a share of it?

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?

Chip in a little money for the fuel to get there. Even if it's only the tax they pay on the fuel.

Comments:

National Parks prices in NSW are now prohibitive, probably due to caravan parks complaining. Many National Parks now charge more than CP's in NSW. So we now by-pass NSW! It is important for people to realise that by trying to force grey nomads to use caravan parks will NOT work. We do not use CP's for quite a few reasons. It is easier to go past or through a town who wants to force us to use CP's. One town in Victoria (Sale) we were not even thinking of staying. Untila a very enterprising gentleman from the Sale Tourist Bureau invited us to stay in Sale at the local Showground / trotting track for \$10 per night. Plenty of room to spread out. Plus we got a voucher for dinner discount and a free beer - worth \$10. So we stayed. Filled my diesel tanks for \$80, bought groceries for \$120, went to two Museums and gallery \$30, bought new fishing gear at sale \$110. Bought lunch at pub \$25. So the town got \$295 over the 3 days we stayed, that was not planned!

10/06/2010