

Sub 16

Economic Development Committee

From: webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, 22 April 2010 10:06 PM
To: Economic Development Committee
Subject: ONLINE SUBMISSION - 'Grey nomad tourism
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Name: Barry Powell
Position: retired teacher
Email: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Caboolture
State: QLD
Postcode: 4510

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. I have a disposable income of more than a thousand dollars a week but will only spend it where I am made welcome and most definitely only where I choose to spend it. Under no circumstances will I be bullied in to spending where I choose not to. In fact, I will avoid any jurisdiction which tries that tactic, I keep a map and use it to mark the unfriendly locations. I also share that map and information with other travellers. 2. The most relevant statistic, I have found, is the one which shows how much the income of caravan parks has exceeded the CPI in the last decade. I promise not to aid this in the future.

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. These vary all over the place, but I will speak for myself. I travel in a fully self contained motorhome. My infra structure needs mostly relate to space to rest the tyres of my vehicle when I need to rest from driving or wish to stay and enjoy an area. I require little else except a place to dispose of my own waste and that which I pick up, left by less thoughtful and less considerate travellers. I prefer the minimum of signage as that which seems to be on the increase only interferes with my traditional freedoms. I do obey such signage, but if it is found to excess I just drive on, avoid the place. mark it on my map and share the information with others. 4. Yes and none additional is required. Just have a bonfire with some of those banning signs.

Government coordination:

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

5. This one is just too easy. In a word, choice. The freedom to choose where to spend and where to stay, without the corruption and compulsion to limit that choice. If any regulation is required, it would centre around a fair go and sharing of the heritage of all Australians and the visitors to our land. Regulation might be required to limit the amount of hogging of our resources whether is is by those whose home is on wheels or on a foundation on the ground. I absolutely and categorically refuse to use a caravan park. While they provide nothing which I need, I have been so angered by attempts to compel me to use them that I have dismissed them as a place to stay. I actually prefer to rest and camp in rural settings and to have the location to myself. If I wish to camp with friends I might choose a friendly showground or conservation area campground. I no longer visit National Parks. They now require exorbitant user fees just to enter them. I can afford such fees but my protest is in support of the many Australian families who cannot. I also refuse to use toll roads. I consider toll roads to be a prime example of governments unable to manage a budget. I do enjoy the revenue from toll roads however. My pension fund owns one of the toll companies.

Marketing and promotion:

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

6. Another easy one. Take down many of those restricting signs and provide welcoming places for grey nomad tourists to park and rest and camp. Apply modest fees only when a service is provided beyond that which is provided to other travellers. No fees for toilets or garbage bins. It would be reasonable to charge a fee for a hot shower. Governments should certainly charge no fees when the cost of collecting those fees equals or exceeds the cost of providing them. The picnic gas barbecues are a prime example. They are now free, and for reasons which Blind Freddy could have predicted.

10/06/2010

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. I cannot help with this one. I have no need of additional income so I merely freely help where I choose to do so. 8. Same answer as above, for myself. For those who need the work, and many will have the skills, you could try communicating with them through their clubs and organisations.

Comments:

My submission has been prompted by the rabid lobbying I see reported from the caravan park associations. That governments can be persuaded by such blatant self interest is an issue of shame to all Australians. I spend a good part of my time apologising to our overseas visitors for this state of affairs. I make similar submissions to the governments in other states which I visit. I can only hope that Queensland gives this matter some consideration before we end up like Western Australia. You probably know that they have a statute forbidding camping within 50 km of a commercial caravan park. What could possibly be more ludicrous? They must have plenty of corruption to go along with self interest in Western Australia. Barry Powell
