

Sub 18

Economic Development Committee

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?

Q1., I believe millions of dollars - I spend at least \$600-00 pw while travelling and I have lived in my motorhome 10 years. Plus I "share" my spending to ALL businesses - I see NO reason why ALL businesses should NOT share my spending (NOT being forced to "USE" a caravan park EVERY night as I have NO NEED of their facilities!) I ensure ALL businesses are informed they are getting my dollars, because I am NOT paying a CP fee for the night, I am "resting" out of town! Q2. Why should I be looking for statistics - I AM one - I make up those who ARE the statistics

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?

Q3. I have a fully "self-contained" motorhome - paid thousands of dollars extra to ensure I was independent (for a period of time) of CP's, NP's and "social facilities" to enjoy this HUGE country at my leisure. NOT to BE REQUIRED that I MUST stay every night of my later life in a Caravan Park! I can last 7-10 days independently, wherever, with NO requirement of services, and NO impact on the environment as we have large holding/sullage/blackwater tanks on board. "Leave No Trace" - I am a signatory to that!!! All I need is a "Dump Point", (They are cheap to install and are of minimal reservice) access to potable water (300 litres in 3 tanks - willing to pay - say \$2-00 - which is over \$6-00/kl - more than city costs for "household use) and a rubbish bin/dumpster bin. As for food/ fuel/ banking/postal/recreation etc., I have no problem "travelling" to those "larger" centres for the "services" I require Q4. Yes and No. Most "small" towns cope with lesser facilities than "cities/regional centres" and I suggest ALL grey nomads" accept the "limitations" of regional Qld/Aus, but help is always close at hand, and we are NOT DUMB - grey nomads do realise they are/maybe tracking into limited service areas! The main "NEW" infrastructure Gov't can provide is more "roadside stops", "rest areas", "overnight parking" (20-24hrs max in more "popular regional centres). This is a huge country with plenty of space/areas for GN's "enjoy" a roadside "stop" and on "lesser busy" routes, "smell the roses - er wattle!!", listen to the birds - watch the wedgetail eagle!!! etc..

Government coordination:

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

WHY ARE CARAVAN PARKS A "PROTECTED SPECIES"!!!! No other citizen/traveller is DIRECTED by law/bylaw/regulation that they MUST stay at a particular business - hotel/motel/cabin accommodation etc.! YET a Caravan Park deems it is their "right" to MY first spending in a town at their establishment in deference to EVERY OTHER business in town! What next? You MUST eat at a certain restaurant? You MUST drink at a certain Hotel? I could go on, - BUT think of this - the CP has a swimming pool, games room, internet, Camp kitchen, minibikes, playground, jumping balloon etc. etc. - I don't need that - BUT BY DECREE OF SOME SORT, I am REQUIRED TO STAY THERE and PAY FOR THAT IN MY FEE??? It's like saying "YOU MUST EAT AT THE 5 STAR RESTAURANT AND PAY - when ALL YOU WANT IS A PIE (with sauce)!!" There needs to be STATEWIDE LEGISLATION of what is "CAMPING" AND "RESTING". For instance, I can "sleep"/park ALL DAY in my motorhome just outside of town and disturb no-one - YET, at some obscure time (sunset/last-light, 6pm, 8pm 10pm {pubs are shut} I am "DEEMED" TO BE "CAMPING"!!!!!! No awning out, NO table & chairs, No cooking, - NO CHANGE - YET I AM "SUDDENLY" IN BREACH OF A LAW/BYLAWS/REGULATION!!!!!! Some "authorities" decree "No Sleeping in vehicles Overnight"!!!! What if I stay awake all night on the computer??? I can assure you - THIS WILL BE TESTED IN A COURT OF LAW - SOOOON!! There is all this HOOHAA about "resting" and "REST/REVIVE/SURVIVE" - considered an absolute farce and a waste of advertising dollars by "most" "on the road" travellers, when the officious Ranger, or local CP owner/lessee harangues and harasses "bush campers" that they MUST stay in a CP - disbelieve me? Shall I just say "Barcaldine" - contact me for others!!! Recently in Vic., I pulled over around 3pm onto an old, unused section of highway as I was feeling unwell (out in the sticks, we were), slept throughout the night, had vomiting and "the trots", next day, unfit to drive a 10tonne rig, so stayed another night, and felt better to continue - BUT was very impressed with a local Hiway

Patrol Officer who ventured in to check on my welfare as he had seen the MH tere for 2 days (as he said, probably in contravention of some local bylaw {why?} but he was not concerned about that, we were of no hazard and "hurting" no-one - great attitude!!!!)

Marketing and promotion:

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

Free/low-cost "parking" areas in/near towns, dump points, potable water, rubbish collection points Officially "recognise" the "Leave No Trace" scheme and signatories thereof, displaying the windscreen sticker as being "responsible" travellers You provide them, then advertise these communities have them, WE WILL COME! I buy most of my diesel locally - for the sake of 4c/l for 150l - \$6-00 out of my pocket, but a "local" gets the dough. i camp behind "proactive hotels to have a counter meal and put a few dollars "on the bar" - the money NOT required for being "herded" into a CP (caravan prison - er park) and the "locals" come up with some great "local" picturesque sites/sights to visit/stay THAT IS AUSTRALIA!!!!!!!!!!

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?

Q7. Probably limited, but have no real experience/consequence of Gov't initiatives. Suggest the local Information Centres (normally manned by volunteers too) be advised of local needs, and services (dump points, freestay areas etc as mentioned above) to "suggest" to GN's could they "stay" and help I have an "HR" licence and would enjoy "helping" locally for farming/ploughing/harvester truck running etc., (my past occupation of Air Traffic Control is of no use in Surat/Bedourie!!!!!!)

Comments:

The "Grey Nomads" are "hitting the streets" er HiWays in a HUGE way This country (State) is big enough for All to make a living. BUT (should never stat a sentence with But - old world English!!) it should NOT be a requirement that one industry/business (namely CP's) should have a priority/legislative advantage over others. The Lands Act (I think that is the one - that Ombudsman's decision about Gov't not "competing" with private enterprise fiasco) NEEDS to be repealed/amended/whatever. I cannot see, with my understanding/knowledge, why any takeaway/restaurant/cafe/entertainment business etc., cannot now claim that the local park, with it's free BBQ's, swings/playground/water amusement area/etc., is a "gov't" area "competing" with private enterprise. Why are CP's the "protected species"? Lobbying? A "Pandora's Box" has been opened - be it at your peril if NOT changed! Why MUST I (by law) use a service/business, which does not provide the "service" I require????????? If a howground (e.g.) provides a parking spot/power/water/dum point and that is AL I want, why do you, AS A GOV'T AND LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY, DEMAND I Must go to a CP, pay more, for services I do NOT require. DO YOU DEMAND I USE THE GATEWAY BRIDGE, WHEN I CAN GO A CHEAPER WAY -----NO!!! So why only Caravan Parks when I can go a cheaper way, - Showground or "bush camp" This "decision" by the "Ombudsman" MUST BE REVERSED/AMENDED - otherwise it is all a FARCE and all the HOOOOHAAA about "grey nomad" support" is readily seen (and OPENLY discussed around campfires/happy hours) as another gobbledegook, political sham, obsfucation. posturing, self-righteous promotion - PLEASE DO SOMETHING POSITIVE - THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF GREY NOMADS COMING - LET ALONE THOSE HERE NOW - YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GRAB IT BY THE (where it hurts) ONE CHANCE - THAT IS NOW Please (as a Qlder, born and bred) don't hesitate to contact me - been doing this for 10 yrs now Please DO something POSITIVE