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From: webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au
Sent: Friday, 23 April 2010 8:04 AM
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. Grey nomads make a considerable touristic contribution to Qld - especially the remote communities with one proviso - the community has to make the Grey Nomad feel welcome. Grey nomads in self contained vehicles (especially motorhomes) don't require caravan parks - they provide nothing that a self contained vehicle requires, thus a self contained grey nomad vehicle just requires a place to spend a night or two to do the shopping, take a break, see the sights. along with this just a garbage bin, human waste disposal facility (dump point) at regular intervals on the well worn tourist tracks. A toilet or shower is a bonus but not essential. 2. Don't know

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. Waste disposal required yes, both general rubbish and human waste (dump points. Dump points don't have to be in every town but at reasonable distances along the well worn tourist routes. These dump points also need to be accessible to vehicles that carry either a cassette system or holding tank. Health services - hard to say here as you never know when and where you need them. Signage - want friendly signs, not signs saying I cannot free camp with 50 kms of a town, signs that tell me I can stay overnight in a particular spot (within reasonable closeness to the town or better still within the town. Towns not providing this miss out on my patronage. Also a town that says (by reading between the lines of a sign) I must stay in a Caravan Park and no where else certainly does not get my vote. I move on and the town suffers on a whole. I am prepared to pay for some services provided eg if a Showground is open for "camping" then a small fee is reasonable BUT not a caravan park rates - same goes for a specifically built rest area - minimal facilities, minimal fee. National parks is another example where fees are ridiculous - you pay to enter and you pay to camp - becoming unaffordable. 4. No Toll roads, more dump points, more overnight rest areas.

Government coordination:

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

5. In a word CHOICE. Freedom of choice of where to stay is eroded. If you are a self contained vehicle then you have no need of a caravan park - the only requirement then is a need to dispose of both human waste and general household waste - very expensive to do this if that is the only option and an unnecessary spend that could easily have gone to somewhere within the town on a meal, sight seeing, fuel, gas, haircut etc. All these items will still be spent sooner or later but not in a town that does not make me feel welcome.

Marketing and promotion:

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

6. Make them welcoming to tourists, provide a few basic facilities and somewhere to park easily, somewhere to stay overnight (if you are self contained) and perhaps somewhere to dispose of waste both household and human. If a town does this word of mouth within the grey nomad community at "happy hour", forums etc will soon get the message out. Also a town needs to look at their signage - is there a proliferation of "No Camping, No Stopping, No Parking at any hour signs" - this is a tell tale sign to a grey nomad that the town (or the Council) have gone overboard and are not on our side. If a minor facility is provided in a rest area/showground or park a small fee is acceptable for say a shower and clean facilities (afterall someone has to do this and we understand this) but to ignore the fact that most Motorhomes contain this anyway and just want a place to overnight for a day or maybe two is a costly to a community.

9/06/2010

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. Don't know as haven't participated but do read of the success that seem have had 8. I feel that many a grey nomad would like to help out every now and then. To do this the town needs to provide some basic facilities like a camp spot either free or cheap in return for the services of a grey nomad.

Comments:

I have responded here because it is becoming increasingly hard to stay in towns that are no longer welcoming. There seems to be a major drive by Caravan Parks to herd people into their facility with blatant disregard for how the other businesses in a town feel or suffer when grey nomads move on/drive through rather than stopping. No-one seems to question the fact that Caravan parks are setting themselves up in opposition to the motels/hotels etc with their cabins etc and thus hurting local businesses anyway and expect 100% of the trade by forcing grey nomads to stay in their park when they have no need. Please Queensland, do not become like WA where you can't overnight with 50 kms of a town, or NSW, where you pay an arm and a leg to enter and camp in a National Park/Forrest where no or extremely basic facilities are provided anyway or bollards stopping you even if you did want to do so. Also, why is camping in a tent preferred to a Motorhome in National Parks - where is the self containment of a tent.