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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?

We spend approx \$500pw while touring. This is NOT spent in caravan parks (jails) Where are they and what value would they be to an individual traveller? If the stats are based on Caravan Jail occupancy then they are seriously flawed.

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?

Shopping for fuel and food. A tap and toilet along the way. Low fee or free camping, NOT caravan parks. Grey nomads simply do not find \$200 - \$300 pw for caravan jails. They generally have onboard facilities, camp on a budget and spend their income on essentials. Otherwise they could not travel as grey nomads do which is very different to working families annual holidays. The current infrastructure for grey nomads in Queensland is NOT adequate in the majority. Travellers are generally hunted away from 'a pleasant out of town river bank' and into a CARAVAN JAIL. Most just leave and look for something suitable in a 'friendly' area.

Government coordination:

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

FEES THAT ARE BEYOND THE REACH OF LONG TERM TRAVELLERS Any camping enterprise that involves staff to 'manage' and collect fees soon becomes accountable and profit based. Caravan jails are NOT what camping is about.

Marketing and promotion:

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

WORD OF MOUTH Via caravan and motorhome internet forums. Club magazines Information centres

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?

We have not found such a venue in our travels. Again WORD OF MOUTH Via caravan and motorhome internet forums. Club magazines Information centres

Comments:

It must be accepted that there is a large group of travellers who do not want to be, and WILL NOT BE, shoe horned into caravan jails. Given a simple campsite with a bit of space they will happily stay and spend money in the area. With no choice they simply will not stay. The average grey nomad couple have about \$400 pw to spend on fuel, food and camping. National park and Caravan Jail fees around \$30 pn are simply not an option. \$10 in a showground or \$5 in a rest area are acceptable and then their \$50 per day gets spent on food, entertainment etc. around the area.

9/06/2010