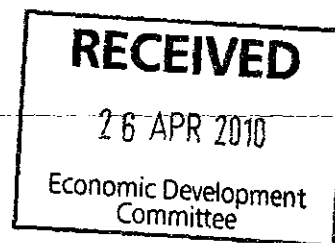


Sub 28

From: webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au
Sent: Saturday, 24 April 2010 5:54 AM
To: Economic Development Committee
Subject: ONLINE SUBMISSION - 'Grey nomad tourism'



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. What economic contribution do grey nomads make to rural and regional areas of Queensland? Grey Nomads as you call them as the retired travelling public. They are generally on a fixed income, either self funded or pension entitlement after many years in the workforce. Due to the nature of their chosen lifestyle fresh groceries, fruit and meat need to be purchased on a regular basis as storage is limited and fuel is required to continue their travels. If this fixed income is savagely gouged by caravan park fees there is little other monies left, essentials must be met so the tourist sites and service providers such as food outlets and hair dressers etc miss out. Grey nomads also supply a large amount of free labour both through organised voluntary work and general litter collection where a free or low cost camping area exists as a form of repayment for the kindness show. Many travellers have spent extensive amounts of money to make their vehicle self sufficient. They can generate their own power with non polluting solar and battery systems, tanks to collect their grey and black water and fresh water tanks complete with shower and toilet facilities. These travellers have no need of the services offered by caravan parks so if no alternative free or low cost areas are provided they will continue on to where such services are provided. Grey nomads have some \$\$ to spend, are in no rush to be at the next place but refuse to be dictated as to where their money is spent. 2. Are the available statistics on grey nomads in Queensland useful, current and accessible? There are a lot of statics available, some very different to others so it is hard to make a judgement call on this question. From my experience statistics and figures supplied by a commercial self interest group are extremely biased and unreliable. On the other hand information supplied by a non profit organisation with all the travelling publics interest at heart would be a better basis to make judgements from, I'm sure you can understand my reasoning.

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. What are the public infrastructure requirements of grey nomads including health services, waste disposal sites and signage? In general the travelling public need access to medical facilities, some where to refill their fresh water tanks and some where to dispose of their waste, both liquid at a dump point and garbage in a suitable receptacle. There should not be a fee associated with this waste disposal. Signs indicating where the camping area is situated, where the dump point is and where medical services are available are really the only signs the travelling public require. Any additional signs promoting the attractions of the area accompanied by a location map would prove beneficial to both parties. 4. Is the current infrastructure for grey nomads in Queensland adequate? What additional infrastructure is required? Grey nomads and the travelling public in general require a place to stop over and facilities such as fresh water, waste and litter disposal. Some require further services such as toilet and shower and electrical connection and these may already be met by some caravan parks but the additional cost for jumping castles, swimming pools and entertainment rooms are a unnecessary expense so a suitable alternative should be provided for these people. Many have no need for these additional services at all, simply a level place to park, liquid and garbage waste disposal areas and fresh water. Many of these type facilities that were previously available located on showgrounds and Crown Land Reserves have since been closed or forced to charge the same exorbitant fees as the commercial interest caravan parks. This action appears to be in the caravan parks interest and many see it as the government supporting a restrictive trade type arrangement under s52 of the Land Act, one I'm sure was not intended but this has been the net result. Minimum serviced rest areas need to be established for the travelling public, if a nearby town wishes to take advantage of the possible increased revenue then these rest areas should be close to town or have a convenient transport link available.

Government coordination:

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

9/06/2010

5. What are the major issues relating to the regulation of Queensland's camping and caravan parks? As I and many of my fellow travellers see it, the government whether intentionally or otherwise is supporting the caravan park association by either closing or forcing high fees on any alternative rest areas. There is a strong feeling among travellers the Qld government supports the commercial interest of caravan parks, above the best interest of other members of the community, both commercial and the general public. To have areas closed to access by all and forced to stay at caravan parks and pay their exorbitant fees is simply unacceptable.

Marketing and promotion:

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

6. What is the best method of marketing Queensland's rural and regional communities to grey nomad tourists? Provide free or low cost rest areas with reasonable maximum stay limits. Provide this information to the various clubs whose members would utilise such facilities. Provide this information on an easy to read web site linked to Qld tourism etc.

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. How successful have existing programs been in utilising the skills of grey nomads in rural and regional Queensland? I have no way of knowing if there has been any success with existing programs however there is a huge talent pool available with many willing to give back to any community that welcomes them in without the local caravan park trying to fleece them of their hard earned money. 8. What can the government do to encourage grey nomads to use their skills by undertaking work in rural and regional areas? If you want workers both voluntary and paid to stay in an area you first need to provide a place for them to stay and some form of incentive. An example may be to provide a low cost rest area with fees and stay restrictions waived in return for volunteer work provided, a win win for the traveller and community.

Comments:

There is a huge wealth of knowledge and work experience along with a \$\$ to spend to help build or rebuild outback communities. Many of these people would be willing to offer both with as small a cost as a friendly greeting and clean place to stop at without being fleeced by commercial interests, it is interesting to note the rise in caravan park fees in comparison to the rise in the CPI, these figures vary depending on whose statistics you read but in all cases the caravan park fees have risen far higher than the CPI over the last 10 yrs. It's up to the whole community to want and support such a thing, they have the power to force the greedy into line, this is very hard to do if these entities are being supported by poorly thought out government legislation.
