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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?

The limited disposable income available to pensioners, might be considered by some to be inconsequential, however when it is multiplied it becomes substantial. Basically all pensioners tend to spend their pension, therefore it is easy to estimate the value to the local communities, simply by multiplying the number of people by the value of the pension.

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?

All that are required are basic commodities, that is free or economical camping areas with the minimum of facilities, that is potable water, toilet facilities and access to sewage dump points, with showers and available power being optional.

Government coordination:

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

The major issues of dispute with caravan parks, are primarily the cost, and the charge for services that are not required or desired. With a finite income it becomes increasingly necessary to strictly adhere to a budget, and the amount of that income that is available can be quickly consumed by caravan parks to the point where fuel/travel cannot be afforded.

Marketing and promotion:

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

I believe the present marketing of western Queensland to be adequate as far as the travelling public are concerned, In my humble opinion probably the better examples of marketing and providing of commodities are the councils of Mitchell and Morven, both of which provide a notice board and fliers of the upcoming local events, and have an adequate information system, Though I do feel that some form of flyer on the history of the area, and the placing of points of interest in the surrounding area. A large percentage of the "Grey Nomads" have an interest in history particularly in those areas that interest them. For instance near Morven there are large stock watering troughs, largely in a state of disrepair, with the accompanying notices as to the manning of the valves and limitations of camping of stock in the vicinity. It would be nice to know more about the history of these troughs, when they were established, the numbers of stock that used them 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?

I cannot comment on the success or otherwise of any existing programs for the employment of the available skills as I

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have yet to see, or be made aware of any of these programs. From my personal observations the biggest thing any government could do to encourage the grey nomads to participate in any form of work program would be to provide financial encouragement in some form that doesn't impact on their pension entitlements.

Comments:

Both my wife and myself, are presently on the road full time and are in receipt of DVA pensions, our personal budgets allow \$30.00 per day for travelling that is for fuel and camping costs, with the current price of fuel we are limited to roughly 100 km per day, however were we to spend a day in the local caravan park at \$27.50 a night we may have to spend up to ten days in that park to be able to afford to travel on to the next town where the process has to be started all over again. We have invested many thousands of dollars in our motorhome and many more in making it self sufficient with solar panels, water storage and both grey and black water storage, all with the aim of making the outfit self sustainable and ecologically friendly, in that we do not need power or any other facilities other than dump point and potable water every third day or so.