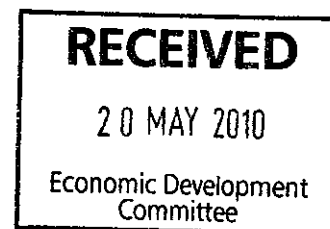


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From: webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au
 Sent: Wednesday, 19 May 2010 8:29 PM
 To: Economic Development Committee
 Subject: ONLINE SUBMISSION - 'Grey nomad tourism'



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. These people do a great deal of good for regional areas. Primarily they bring much needed trade to local businesses, often making the difference in their viability. Catering to the travellers tourism needs creates a pride in their local area and the resultant benefits lift the whole spirit of the region, with flow on economic and employment benefits. 2. I am unaware of current stats being readily available, but if so they would be a great planning tool.

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. People are not going to venture to places they feel do not have the public infrastructure to meet their requirements. They have similar needs to the locals, with the added requirement to properly dispose of their waste. This requires good signage to indicate the dump point, rubbish bin and potable water supply. A legal, safe, overnight stopping area that is in close proximity to the town or area they are visiting is an absolute must. 4. The dump points are few and far between, and often not very accessible, but this seems to be improving. Very few areas have water available and one usually has to search to find a rubbish bin. Most travellers only rest in approved areas, but it is a frustration to travellers when nothing is available, usually necessitating a move to a different area, then everyone misses out.

Marketing and promotion:

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

Through caravan / motorhome clubs publications would be the most effective, however regional tourist info centres need to hold the adjoining areas info, otherwise one drives past many attractions before you are aware of them.

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. I am amazed at the skills / talents of the people I meet in my travels. Most are looking for adventure / experiences in the particular areas and I feel many would be happy to interact on a short term basis. I am aware of some notable successes in places such as Barcaldine, but there is always the basic expense of having someone come to camp, as well as the often higher living costs in remote areas. I feel this resource is drastically under utilised. 8. It could be coordinated similar to the "house sitting" system, with government support for a monthly advertised "positions vacant" list in the major club magazines, and maybe a central point (web site?) to coordinate and give further information as well as checking compatibility.

Comments:

There is so much potential in a remote state like ours to utilize that great ozzie volunteering spirit, as well as the mental health aspect of the "grey Nomad Army" sharing their life experiences in places that would not usually have that level of experience available.