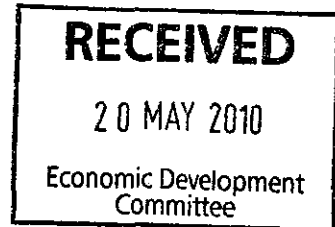


Sub 44

From: webmaster@parliament.qld.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, 20 May 2010 12:10 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. Economic Contributions. We stop, stay and buy food, medicines, fuel and meals in Motorhome friendly towns where ever we travel. Where schools allow us to use their grounds out of school time on long weekends or holiday periods we act as a deterrent to vandals and always leave the school grounds clear of rubbish. For this we contribute to the Parents and Community Funds. Normally at the cost of \$10 a motorhome per night these funds are raised with little work on the part of the school community. We pick up the key to the toilets we will use during office hours and return with facilities cleaned by us. At times those on the road for long periods tend to have mechanical services and purchase tyres etc in country towns. Many avoid the larger capital cities and meander through the back roads where their money is welcomed by the local communities. At present I am organising a National Rally for our small group and we will have 70 motorhomes come to Dayboro for a week but I am sure the majority will then spend the winter months in Queensland. I have already organised a reduced fare to Stradbroke Island on the barge and I know many are considering extending to avail themselves of this opportunity.

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. At present the Dump sites for Grey and Black water are easily visible in most Motorhome Friendly Country towns. Some are more user friendly than others. Health services are suitable as most areas have a local hospital nearby where the service in emergency is better than large cities for prompt attention. When large numbers of us travel to areas it may put a drain on the service supplied for a normally smaller and younger population. Our winter months are our most frequent time for large influx of numbers from down south. 4. I am always proud of what Queensland has done for the travelling public. There are still many towns who welcome us and allow us somewhere to park our self contained vehicles where we are not a nuisance but it does not have the huge expense of Caravan Parks. The time we spend in an area determines how much we contribute to the shops etc. Most of us have our own fully equipped toilets, showers, sinks with hot and cold running water. We do not need the pools, playgrounds, resort style landscaping, laundry etc supplied by caravan parks. We stay overnight when we are sleeping. \$30 to park our vehicle is unnecessary. We would rather be in a forest where we can relax in peace.

Government coordination:

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

5. You can regulate them as I am sure it is necessary for health and safety. Just ensure you remember you represent all Queenslanders not just the Caravan Park Lobby. The Grey nomads may travel for much of the year but we still vote and we are a growing number of the population. Western Australia bought in regulations one year to prevent camping within 30+ kms of a caravan park. The next year hardly any Grey Nomads went to Western Australia so they ended up altering the law. We may be old but our memories of pleasant towns with nice rest areas are spread by word of mouth along the track. We had country towns in Queensland we visited regularly who changed their rules re stopping over night in Rest areas. We have never returned to that area and thus spend our money elsewhere.

Marketing and promotion:

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

Word of mouth. We are great at telling others of the good stop overs along a route. I know we are having a travel night at our Rally where we will all talk about the best camp spots we know in our areas. I write articles for our magazine after a trip to let others know where the good country areas are along the way. The Rest Area Guide for Queensland is well set up. It has always been the envy of other states. Identify places you would like us to stay by GPS coordinates and include any facilities in the area. EG dump point, toilet water. Tourist Information could have a list of places to stay for motorhomers with price beside it. Most elderly are on limited incomes and would prefer to spend it on visiting a museum, boat trip, etc than sitting in a caravan park. Let us know and we will tell hundreds each month when we meet.

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 know many retired teachers who stay on outback properties helping with school programs. Some put in time in their Grandchildren's schools helping in Tuck shop or craft classes. 8. We visit libraries to access the Internet while travelling. I am sure many would love to become involved in covering books etc if required. Some follow the picking trail and do fruit and vegetable picking to supplement their income. Men can visit the local Men's Sheds and contribute there. We could be encouraged to adopt an area to help with roadside clean ups. Many have skills in gardening that they miss while travelling . Supply garbage tins and we will clean up areas and always plan to leave it better than when we arrive.

Comments:

When in USA we found the summer months National parks and Foret Areas where RV's stayed would often be manned by unpaid volunteers who gave their services free in return for a camp site. They just walked around and recorded number plates and if someone over stayed the time limit they would notify the police. Who could then move the offenders on. Another area we needed to register at the local police station where we showed our drivers licence and they also recorded number plate. The police did a drive through during the night and checked all was in order. For this we paid the police a few dollars that went to their Christmas fund. Motorhomes travel often and stay where they want to see more. Caravaners tend to stay in one place and drive daily to see sites. So for this reason Caravan Parks in towns are not as much use to the motorhomers.
