

Sub 60

Economic Development Committee

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?

Huge benefit to smaller and outback towns and communities, without which many would not survive. However the current restrictions on bush camping, which forces people into overpriced caravan parks, means that we do not stop or contribute to communities which are not RV friendly. We do stop and spend a lot of money where we are made to feel welcome. I have not seen any statistics on the impact of grey nomads, my comments come from personal experiences of several visits to Queensland and anecdotes from fellow travellers.

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?

RV friendly towns and communities are increasing in number and are very welcome, but they are local initiatives only, without state-wide government support. One common observation is that Queensland has more "No Camping" signs than any other state. Why not take up the Tasmanian initiative of telling visitors what they CAN do, and where, not what they CAN'T do? (In Proserpine for example, the whole side of the park in the town centre is devoted to signs which tell visitors what they can't do. So people do not stop there).

Government coordination:

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

Bush camping is not permitted, which means that rest areas become overcrowded and dirty. Allowing safe, responsible camping along the sides of all roads by visitors who display a "Leave No Trace" certification. would be a welcome change and would encourage grey nomads to visit more. Caravan parks do not provide any services required by "Leave No Trace" visitors so why is there always a push to make visitors use them? I'm not forced to use a bakery or supermarket just because I am there, so why a caravan park.

Marketing and promotion:

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

Providing a welcoming environment like Home Hill does and Bingara does (in NSW). Bingara advertises their town in the CMCA magazine The Wanderer as having free camping alongside the river and in return requests visitors to support its businesses, which we do.

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'm not aware of any programs to use such skills. Where would I find this information? Publicise the need and how to get information. We would be interested in contributing our skills.