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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?

1. Grey nomads spend money. They need to purchase all of their supplies whilst touring, food and fuel being the main ones. They support local interest establishments such as markets, museums and art galleries etc. In many cases they patronise camping facilities and caravan parks. 2. I have no knowledge of available statistics on grey nomads in Qld.

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. Health services like medical centres and hospitals are of great importance for grey nomads as is waste disposal in the form of rubbish bins, potable water and sanitary 'dump points'. Directions to all these facilities are crucial for nomads. 4. The current infrastructure for grey nomads in Queensland is mostly inadequate. Gray nomads need street parking for motor homes and caravans within reasonable proximity with retail centres and adequate signage to same. Grey nomads often need safe rest areas within reasonable proximity with towns and their infrastructure. These rest areas could be equipped with garbage bins, toilets, a dump point, and potable water to be of best use.

Government coordination:

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

5. The major issues as I see them are; a) Local Councils' intervention in the use of overnight roadside rest areas in favour of caravan parks. This can be very aggravating particularly for self sufficient nomads. It's expensive to travel and being forced to use caravan parks and pay for facilities which are not wanted or needed is very unreasonable, restricting and discriminatory, given that other travellers, cars and trucks specifically, are given support in the form of overnight rest areas which are often not available or suitable for motorhomers or vanners.

Marketing and promotion:

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

6. Caravan and travel magazines, forums, club websites 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. Not very IMO 8. Make it known via tourist centres, motorhome and caravan clubs, forums and publications.

Comments:

If a rural town is not accommodating or appears to be unfriendly or even hostile toward travellers, in some instances threatening fines for supposed illegal parking, or fails to adequately cater for the needs of travellers including gray nomads, the general reaction is for them to bypass the town. The word quickly gets around via the internet and a towns' reputation as tourist friendly can be effected.