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28 MAY 2010

Economic Development
Committee

From: Barry Staer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2010 3:48 PM
To: Economic Development Committee
Subject: Economic Development Committee Issues paper No 3 - Submission.

B & EM Staer [REDACTED] ROTHWELL Q 4022.

We wish to submit the following input to the Inquiry into developing Queensland's rural and regional communities through grey nomad tourism.

ISSUES FOR COMMENT.

1. Economic contributions by grey nomads to rural and regional areas.

We retired in 1994, bought a self contained Motorhome and travelled Australia full time for six years, visiting every State and most of the National Parks in every State. We then settled into a Retirement Village at Redcliffe (30k north of Brisbane) but we still travel in a Motorhome for six months of each year, every year, to visit family in Adelaide and Townsville.

When planning our north and south trips we select the routes which take us off the major highways through regional areas of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. Our budget prevents us from using Caravan Parks all the time and we prefer to camp at State Forests, Recreation Areas or National Parks and other low cost camp grounds as much as possible.

During the sixteen years we have been doing this we have purchased the following major items while travelling.

Three Motor bikes at different times, a Nissan Micra sedan, four Solar panels, three Television sets, a VHS player recorder, a DVD player recorder, more than 1000 litres of LP Gas, plus the whole of our normal cost of living budget for food, entertainment, clothing, vehicle fuel & maintenance etc, etc. We have also replaced three Motorhomes and only one was bought in a Capital City.

Our budget now for all expenses (excluding capital items, vehicles etc) is \$40000 pa and as we avoid major highways most of it is spent in rural & regional areas.

2. Are available statistics useful current and accessible?

Most nomads we know would not know the answer to this question or have any interest in its answer. We belong to the Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia which has funded research in this area in the past and we subscribe to the Caravan & Motorhome monthly magazine. We find the statistics made available by the CMCA of interest and realize they use it to represent their members to all levels of Government.

3. Public Infrastructure requirements.

Our needs are simple, basic camping facilities including clean toilets, fresh water, some shade, reasonably level, good access, rubbish disposal and to be sited at least 150m off the highway if on a major route whenever possible to avoid traffic noise during the night. To improve safety a few solar powered lights (if no reticulated power is available) around the amenities. We do not need 240v power or showers.

4. What additional infrastructure is required.

Many more roadside rest areas like the ones at the north side of Gin Gin & at the Caliope River are needed. Many existing road side rest areas should be upgraded & extended to include toilets, lighting and fresh water. 240v power and hot showers are not necessary at short term camping grounds.

Urban and Regional Showgrounds have adequate unused facilities for eleven months of each year and they should be encouraged by Governments both state and local to make their facilities user friendly to grey nomads to enhance the benefits of grey nomad tourism for their communities.

5. Issues relating to regulation of Queensland camping and caravan parks.

The caravan park owners lobby has unduly influenced Government and Councils to severely restrict short term camping and force Urban and Regional Show Societies to increase their camping fees so that they are similar to nearby caravan parks fees but without providing the facilities or on-site management. The two markets are entirely different and no business group has any right to insist that we use their services.

6. What is the best method of marketing to grey nomad tourists.

Once adequate low cost facilities are provided the Motorhome Clubs and magazines will be happy to promote them for you at minimal cost. Advertising the magazines with appropriate editorials will quickly reach the market.

7. Existing programs success.

We are unable to answer that as we have not read any feed back on existing programs.

8. What can government do to encourage the use of grey nomad skills.

Publish the urban & regional areas and types of service/skill needs in the above mentioned magazines.

Good luck with your inquiry - we would appreciate seeing some positive outcomes.

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31 MAY 2010

Economic Development
Committee

[REDACTED]
From: Barry Staer [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, 29 May 2010 8:53 AM

To: Economic Development Committee

Subject: Economic Development Committee Issues Paper no 3. Correction to my submission.

Dear Secretary,

Yesterday I emailed a submission to the Committee and omitted the word "in" from item 6. between the words 'Advertising' and 'the' in the second sentence.

The amended sentence should read, "*Advertising in the magazines with appropriate editorials will quickly reach the market.*"

I trust you will be able to make this important change on my behalf.

With kind regards and best wishes to the Committee,

Barry & Elaine Staer

[REDACTED] ROTHWELL Q 4022. [REDACTED]