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Economic Development
Committee

Sub 86

From: laurens [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 18 June 2010 8:15 PM
To: Economic Development Committee

Subject: DEVELOPING QLD RURAL COMMUNITIES FOR GREY NOMAD TRAVEL

The biggest issue we found when we were travelling around was the lack of free camping sites close to many of the towns. In some places it was open hostility towards people sleeping in motor homes.

There seems to be a push by caravan park owners to pack us into their parks or move us on, as is the case with Port Douglas.

We were staying out of town in Port Douglas and woken late at night and told that we would be fined if we did not move on. I had tried to get into the 2 caravan parks but neither was available. One did not take dogs and there was some other problem with the other, so we headed North West. The following day we struck a group of about 20 campers parked on a large grassed open area, all refugees of Port Douglas Council attitude.

We were delighted when we travelled through Western Queensland when we were offered free camping in Winton behind the pub. I think that at Longreach there was a huge parking area just outside the town and there must have been some 50 vehicles there. We spent a few days there going into and out of town.

We travelled for over 2 years and Tasmania with it's welcoming facilities for motorhomes enabled us to spend 3 months there.

Port Lincoln in SA has a huge boat launch parking area which is just out of town an mostly empty.... we spent 2 weeks there, mainly parking at night after visiting Coffin Bay and many surrounding areas.

A lot of travellers in vans do not need the expense of swimming pools and all the bizarre facilities that can be found in some caravan parks. We just need a place to spend a day or two, where we can get into town and shop, fill up with fuel, sight see and move on.

By my calculation I saved over \$1000 in 2001 when we travelled around Australia by staying out of caravan parks. That money was off course used for restaurants and things much more interesting than a grassy patch in a caravan park.

In Burnie in Tasmania we were able to park in a very quiet spot close to town and we moved around there for over a week, enjoying the delights of what Burnie had to offer. As opposed to Port Douglas where we were forced out of town and did not spend any money or get to see the sights.

Pensioners want to get the most for their money, and for a lot of us caravan park accommodation is not value for money.

There will always be people who do not do the right thing and create problems, however that should be dealt with at the time rather than restricting the majority who love and appreciate the freedom of travel and free camping.

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25/06/2010

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ps. We now live in Kyneton after starting a journey from where we lived on the Gold Coast. We stopped here, loved the town, bought a house and have made this our home.

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