

Sub 88

From: Economic Development Committee
Subject: FW: Economic Development Committee Annual Report and submissions tabled

From: Mike [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 18 August 2010 8:23 AM
To: Economic Development Committee
Subject: RE: Economic Development Committee Annual Report and submissions tabled

Dear Lyndel,

Thank you for this opportunity to make a submission to the EDC in their Inquiry into Developing Queensland's Rural and Regional Communities through Grey Nomad Tourism. I note that the Caravanning Queensland (CQ) have been allowed to make a very late rebuttal submission and I request the same privilege.

Firstly, the CQ are an Industry Representative body who's Aim is to increase the profitability of the Caravan Park Owners through lobbying Governments at all levels to create a monopoly whereby all mobile travellers in tents, caravans, campervans and motorhomes are denied a freedom of choice and are required to only stay in Caravan Parks.

The CQ supplementary submission attempts to attack the submissions of other people and organisations who have a view opposed to that of the CQ. CQ have stated on page 6,

"The only thing to be said about statistics as they relate to this Inquiry is that (at best), they are totally unreliable."

This of course includes all the "claimed" statistics presented by CQ, which have NO references, no methodology, no data, no date and consequently should be afforded NO CREDITABILITY and could have been fabricated or manipulated to try to sway members of the Committee. The CQ "statistics" at times are for "member parks" and at other times supposed to represent all Queensland Parks, further I believe CQ do not have access to Data for all Queensland Caravan Parks.

Nowhere does CQ state how many Caravan Parks they represent and have data for, it could as little as 10% of the 471 caravan parks stated by CQ, to be in Queensland. A figure of 6.98 employees in "member parks" is also unsubstantiated and there is no breakdown of whether those numbers represent full time, part time, permanent, casual, itinerant, park owner's family and children workers at the parks. Indeed how many park owners would be prepared to open their books to substantiate these figures? Can CQ substantiate any of their "statistics"?

The above are only a couple of the many comments I could make about the CQ Supplementary Submission presented to the Committee at the last minute to gain an unfair advantage for their vested interests. Nowhere does the submission point out the fact that many if not most of the Caravan Parks in coastal Queensland are currently full and caravan and motorhome travellers are being forced to move on because of the prohibition of parking at showgrounds and sporting facilities in the area. It is then the WHOLE community who is missing out on the money that each caravanner and motorhomer spends daily. Vested interests such as the Caravan Park Lobby have a detrimental effect on the whole community's economy while only focusing on their own profitability and efforts to create a camping monopoly.

Personally over the past 30 years we have owned slide on campers, motorhomes and caravans and have undertaken many enjoyable trips around this wonderful country. We have recently returned from a three and a half month motorhome holiday and on average spent about 2 nights a

week in caravan parks. The rest of the times we camped, in our fully self contained motorhome, in authorised camping areas catering for travellers who choose not to stay in caravan parks. We spend almost \$900 per week while travelling and we prefer to spend that disposable amount in the wider community at supermarkets, bakeries, restaurants, hotels, tourist attractions and the like and NOT spent up to 25% of our weekly allowance in caravan parks where the money is going into one individual's purse and not the greater community at large.

Most caravan parks have not catered for the changes that have occurred in the design, size and needs of the modern caravan and motorhome, with their small reverse in parking spots which were designed for the 1970s 15 foot caravan, not the now common 20+foot and larger vans and motorhomes. Indeed we have a 24foot Bushtracker caravan towed by a Ford F250, the overall length is 15.5 metres or 50 foot, and most caravan parks that we have tried to get into have NOT been able to accommodate us with a suitably sized parking spot with reasonable access. We have NEVER had parking difficulty at Showgrounds and Sporting ovals where access has never been a problem. The money from the stays at showgrounds then goes to the whole community not one individual caravan park owner.

If the CQ supplementary submission has been accepted by the Committee, well after the closing of submissions, will the Committee now remove the CQ and Caravan Park Lobby groups from the list of people to address the committee at the Hearing on Friday?

The Caravan Park Lobby seem to have been given more time to present their information to the committee than other sectors of those interested in the development of regional communities by grey nomads. There does seem to the casual observer some bias toward that vested interest lobby group. The CP Lobby seem intent on reducing the numbers of Grey Nomad tourists by closing showgrounds and sporting facilities to caravan and motorhome travellers.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this to the Committee for consideration.

Mike Kenavan
Grey Nomad
Proud Queenslander
Motorhome and caravan owner