

Tallai 4213

Queensland

27 August 2010

Sub 92

The Chairman
Economic Development Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane

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Economic Development
Committee

SUBMISSION

I fully support Frans Hamer's submission to scrap the changes to the Queensland Land Act implemented in 2007 which sought to restrict the places where caravanners may stay.

If the Queensland Government wishes to attract its fair share of the grey nomad tourist market - and it is a market, not a resource as some park operators appear to believe - then they need to be made welcome.

Most RV's on the road today are semi self-contained, with little need to stay at caravan parks every night. Many owners would prefer to spend their discretionary funds on other things - restaurants, wineries, local attractions and tourist destinations - all of which deliver a substantial boost to regional and rural economies.

Perhaps Queensland could take a look at New Zealand, where the Department of Conservation is actively expanding its programme of encouraging camping on conservation land, or the UK where farmers are allowed to offer short term stays with basic facilities on their properties.

Caravan tourism is predicted to continue climbing for the foreseeable future, without the fluctuations that characterise the numbers of incoming overseas visitors. Queensland is in competition with the other States, and grey nomads in particular can vote with their feet.

We need real policies in place which clearly say to caravanners - 'Welcome to Queensland. We value your custom and we are a caravan friendly State', and we need the political will to ensure that this is not just another slogan of empty words, but a core promise from whichever party is in power.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Malcolm Shepherd". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

John Malcolm Shepherd