



Thank you to the honourable members of the panel for the opportunity to make a submission to the Nature Conservation Act - Stage 2 public submissions - Queensland inquiry into eco-tourism.

My name is Des Hartree. My role is currently club delegate to the NSW Association of Caravan Clubs (40 caravan clubs). In addition, I am the NSW Director for the National Association of Caravan Clubs Limited (NACC), which represents some 155 Caravan Clubs affiliated via the various state associations throughout Australia. I am also one of two NACC Directors who are also delegates to a group called MoTOURING Australia, which brings together both the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) and the National Association of Caravan Clubs Limited (NACC) both of whom promote responsible codes of conduct with their members to protect and support our environment.

We fully support the establishment of eco – tourism in National parks to enable tourists to enjoy and be part of our natural heritage. However I have reservations with regards to the make up or split of the eco-tourism priorities. There are basically 7 types of eco tourism, tenting, caravans, motor homes, cabins, 1-3 star lodges, 4-5 star lodges and more recently gramping

Based on the Tasmanian experience, top end accommodation in ECO TOURISM has plateaued and in reality declined by 11% since 2010 (based on data from Tasmanian Tourism to March 2013)

	APRIL 2009	APRIL 2010	%	APRIL 2011	%	APRIL 2012	%
	MARCH 2010	MARCH 2011		MARCH 2012		MARCH 2013	
WILDERNESS LODGE 4-5 STAR	48400	46900	96.90	50100	103.51	43000	88.84
WILDERNESS LODGE 1-3 STAR	18400	18900	102.72	18800	102.17	18200	98.91
<b>NOT IN CARAVAN PARK</b>			%		%		%
CAMPERVAN/ MOTOR HOME	15500	19100	123.23	20700	133.55	20200	130.32
CARAVAN	6500	6300	96.92	4800	73.85	6500	100.00
TENT	31600	34000	107.59	30600	96.84	35800	113.29
CABIN	28600	27300	95.45	18300	63.99	21000	73.43
	<b>82200</b>	<b>86700</b>	<b>105.47</b>	<b>74400</b>	<b>90.51</b>	<b>83500</b>	<b>101.58</b>

The biggest growth area of tourism is in RV Tourism, and although State and national parks have done a great job in upgrading and extending camping grounds, they unfortunately have not kept up with the growth in RV Tourism (approximately 460,000 registered caravans and motor homes plus additional 20,000 new units being purchased each year) and the loss of facilities in the private sector.

We would all like to stay at 4-5 star facilities at some time, The grey nomads cannot afford the top end of the market and actually prefer to utilise their own self contained facilities. Reality is that Grey Nomads are the real growth market in Tourism,

So although we support eco-tourism concepts, we would like to see increased emphasis on camping and support for self contained vehicles in our National and State parks as we are the real eco-tourists.

Personally, I have toured through Queensland many times and while I am treated fairly and are made welcome I will keep coming back. Part of being treated fairly, is FREEDOM OF CHOICE.

Des HARTREE

NSW Director - National Association of Caravan Clubs Limited

11<sup>th</sup> September 2013