



ABN 16 095 568 157

13 September 2013

Research Director  
Queensland Parliament  
Health and Community Services Committee  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Submitted via email: [hcsc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:hcsc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Honourable Committee Members,

The Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) commends the Queensland Government on the proposed amendments to the *Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2013*, and welcomes this opportunity to provide feedback. In particular, the CMCA supports:

- Increasing access to national parks and other public lands;
- Red tape reduction; and
- Streamlined legislative processes.

CMCA represents over 66,000 members and, as a result, is the peak representative body for the self-contained recreational vehicle (RV) market and the largest consumer voice for the sector as a whole. In light of this, CMCA is strongly in favour of the proposed amendments to broaden the scope of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* to increase access to public land to provide for recreational and commercial uses in protected areas. Further, CMCA strongly supports the State Government's continuing focus on nature conservation as the primary purpose of the Act while

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seeking to broaden access to public land to enable greater eco-tourism opportunities for Queensland.

The CMCA views the proposed amendments as the first step in promoting and growing RV tourism in Queensland. Drivers of self-contained vehicles are looking to experience the State's national parks and can provide significant economic value in these areas. CMCA notes that the Local Government Association of Queensland attended stakeholder briefings on these proposed changes and also welcomes the opportunity to continue dialogue with individual Councils to have them understand the benefits of this segment of the tourism market in their individual regions.

Further, CMCA strongly suggest the proposed amendments explicitly provide certainty for local councils when exploring low-cost camping options in their respective Local Government Areas. Similarly, consumers must be able to look to state planning instruments and supporting legislation to fully understand their rights and responsibilities when travelling in Queensland. CMCA argue the current legislation does not provide sufficient certainty for councils and consumers. To meet the twin objectives of minimising red and green tape and streamlining legislation, the proposed amendments must operate to provide certainty in this area.

CMCA is focused on working with the Queensland State Government to grow domestic and international RV tourism at both intrastate and interstate levels. To enable this, we require legislative support from the Queensland Government. The Club urges the Committee to consider the following statistics and key areas in support of greater eco-tourist activity in Queensland.

Rapid and continuing market growth:

- There over 500 000 RVs registered in Australia
- Estimated 120,000 vehicles will be manufactured over the next five years
- Approximately 80,000 RVs travel around Queensland each year
- On current trends RV travellers will increase by more than 60% over the next 10 years

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#### Significant Economic Value:

- The market is worth \$7 billion a year
- RV Travellers worth \$3.2 billion in the year 2012
- They are the biggest spending travellers in the domestic tourism market and spend on average \$500 to \$900 per week
- Grey nomads comprise up to 70% of the tourism market in some Queensland LGAs

#### Environmental and social benefits:

- New vehicles are increasingly low impact and self-contained and will dominate over the next five years
- The market continues to participate in various volunteer community projects and seasonal and short term work

#### **National Parks: Access to Public Land**

A key objective of CMCA is to broaden opportunities for RV tourists to exercise choice when considering overnight camping options while travelling. National parks and public land make exceptional rest areas for self-contained vehicles. CMCA believes greater access to state and national parks, the development of regional and rural rest areas, and increased admission to public land will offer suitable low-cost camping options for RV travellers.

There are many reserves and tenures that are currently being underutilised, as overnight accommodation access is restricted due to operating government legislation. By making national parks and public land available for use by self-contained RV tourists, regional and rural towns can capitalise on the financial, social, environmental and cultural benefits of the growing RV market.

It is anticipated that by increasing access to public land to low-cost camping options in protected areas, Queensland can expect significant improvements to tourist numbers, thus contributing to the economic development of the regions. Unlocking Queensland's natural assets and National Parks is central to the Queensland Government's renewed focus on growing a four-pillar economy by returning Queensland's tourism industry to number one.

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## **Encouraging sustainable tourist practices: *CMCA and the self-contained RV sector***

One of the most responsible initiatives the CMCA has implemented is the Leave No Trace (LNT) scheme. This is available to all owners of qualifying self-contained RVs who are Members of an RV club. Participants sign a declaration to abide by an 11-point code of conduct designed to protect the environment, and minimise environmental impact, while travelling. This scheme is monitored by CMCA and, in the event of three misdemeanours; the member is liable to loss of their LNT status and subject to a withdrawal of membership by the Club.

Local Government authorities throughout Australia have embraced this initiative, and many more have been amenable to opening up new rest areas based on the fact that self-contained RV's cause little or no impact on the environment. CMCA believes opening up national parks to accommodate for overnight RV travellers in low-cost rest-areas will significantly encourage LNT participants and self-contained vehicle owners to visit, and spend time in, regional and rural Queensland towns, bringing with them direct and indirect economic spend, seasonal short-term work availability, and community focused volunteering expertise and investments.

CMCA's focus on sustainable tourism by implementing Member-based initiatives that focus on environmental considerations such as waste management, biodiversity integrity, management of heritage sites and minimal carbon output, reaffirm why the self-contained RV sector is central to Queensland's eco-tourism development strategy.

### **MoTOURing Australia**

Lastly, CMCA request the Committee consider the role of MoTOURing Australia in supporting the assertions of CMCA with respect to the Bill. Established in 2007, MoTOURing Australia was initiated to represent the freedom of camping options for RV travellers in Australia and comprises of:

1. Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA)
2. Australasian Touring Caravan, Motorhome & Camping Club (ATCMC)
4. National Association of Caravan Clubs (NACC)

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The three major organisations that make up MoTOURing Australia represent potentially more than 500 000 registered RV owners, which constitutes a substantial majority of RV travellers and the extended drive tourism market in Australia. While the three organisations are dominated by retirees (grey nomads), they represent a wide range of age groups making MoTOURing Australia best positioned to represent the interests and opinions of Australia's RV travellers, especially to Government.

In sum, CMCA and MoTOURing strongly support the Queensland State Government's process of consulting key stakeholder views with respect to the above proposals regarding amendments to the Bill. CMCA is eager to work with the State Government to ensure that the best outcomes are attained for the consumer in the RV sector, ecotourism and Queensland's tourist economy more broadly. CMCA and MoTOURing welcome the opportunity to appear before the Health and Community Services Committee to further canvass the opportunities for self-contained RV tourism at the Committee's convenience. If you have any further questions regarding the contents of this correspondence, or CMCA and MoTOURing's role in the recreational vehicle sector more broadly, please do not hesitate to make contact with [REDACTED] at National Headquarters of the CMCA on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Director of CMCA and National Consumer Representative MoTOURing Australia on [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

**Vincent Moran**  
Chairman

**Rudi Fuhrmann**  
Chief Executive Officer

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