



Holiday Park upgrade a wise investment

Simon Ambrose
Tourism News



WE ARE blessed by an unbelievable diversity of holiday experiences on the Sunshine Coast.

There is one vacation that most Australians embrace at some point of their lives – the camping holiday.

From roughing it in a tent

with a few mates to travelling our roads in style in a luxury caravan or motorhome.

Incredibly, every nine minutes a new caravan, camper or motorhome comes off the production line in Australia.

The powerful drive and caravanning sector is mobile, affordable, can be enjoyed by people of any age and is a market not to

be underestimated.

■ Nearly one quarter of Australian holiday makers choose a camping holiday annually, contributing an estimated \$5 billion to the national economy.

■ Though caravanners generally spend less per day than some tourism sectors, they usually stay in one place longer so their overall spend can be higher.

I welcome the news of

Sunshine Coast Council's \$520,000 upgrade for the Coolum Beach Holiday Park.

The project will convert 70 sites, which averaged 64sq m, into 46 larger sites averaging 100sq m each, adding value to the park for the visitors who come to stay throughout the year.

■ *Simon Ambrose is CEO of Sunshine Coast Destination Ltd (SCDL).*



ROAD USERS TO GET FREE TIPS

RECREATIONAL vehicle drivers will be educated on how to best manage the unique road conditions of Northern Australia in the Let's Share the Road program.

The free event has been organised by the Charters Towers Chamber of Commerce and Mines and is targeted at caravan and mobile home owners from the southern states, although locals are welcome to attend.

"Travellers come from the southern States where road conditions are significantly different to Northern Australia," Chamber secretary Sadie Hasthorpe said.

"Travellers are visiting the

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Among many other things participants will be educated in the needs of working vehicles.

Sadie Hasthorpe,
Chamber of Commerce
and Mines secretary.

region in vast and increasing numbers each winter.

"Differences in road conditions include; vast travel distances, different weather patterns, dirt roads, road-train lengths, wild animals on the

road, different day light hours, cane trains, distances between rest areas and service stations, single lane roads and protocols at call-point signs."

Emergency response personnel and road train drivers will join Chamber members to discuss road issues with those in attendance.

"We'll even have a full triple road train there," Ms Hasthorpe said.

"I'll put a caravan behind it and people will be welcome to sit in the road train and get a viewpoint from the heavy vehicle driver's perspective.

"Among many other things participants will be educated in the needs of working road vehicles."

A driver trainer will instruct

people how to best prepare, pack and drive journeys in the north.

There is a free lunch where people can view a DVD on out-back driving etiquette, followed by an open question and answer session before wrapping up proceedings.

"An evaluation/feedback sheet will be provided to the participants," Mrs Hasthorpe said.

"This sheet will ask information about the content, usefulness and relevance of the information provided.

"We will also seek input for any information that the user group may be interested in and that we haven't covered at this event."

The program is at the Charters Towers Golf Club from 10am-2pm, on Friday, August 29.



Camping laws under review

A REVIEW of the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds legislation is being undertaken.

The review seeks direction from the Shire of Esperance council on submissions to a consultation paper, inviting public comment on proposed changes to the CPCG Act 1995.

The state government has proposed to develop new legislation to replace the existing act, with the department intending to bring the new act into law by late next year.

Shire manager of planning services Peter Stanley said at the core of the proposed changes was the proposal where the new legislation focuses on holiday parks, presently known as caravan parks and camping grounds, recognising these have a variety of users.

“Holiday parks are proposed to mean ‘an area of land on which caravans, campervans and/or tents are situated for habitation primarily by short-stay occupiers,’” he said.

Mr Stanley said the term “holiday park” would provide the flexibility to allow the market to drive the supply of accommodation types.

The consultation paper, containing 78 guidance questions to facilitate public feedback and written comments, queries and submissions, will need to be forwarded to the department by September 1.

Mr Stanley said the issues around the review of the act were complex and involved the shire at both a service delivery level and a compliance level.

The shire operates the Grass Patch, Salmon Gums, Munglinup Beach, Quagi Beach, Kennedy Beach and Alexander Bay camping areas.

“There are nine caravan parks which are licensed by the shire’s Health and Environment Services under the CPCG Act, providing for both short and long stay users,” he said.

“Maintaining compliance for a number of campgrounds and caravan parks has proved problematic and challenging as a result of typically older approvals and poor documentation.”

If the officer’s recommendation is passed next week, the council will endorse the responses prepared by shire officers to the guidance questions on the CPCG Act 1995 Review Consultation Paper contained in the feedback form.

Further, the council will authorise the chief executive to make a submission to the Department of Local Government and Communities based on the feedback form.

The council will meet before its ordinary council meeting on August 26 to discuss the matter.



Rolling debate

Argument over RVs deepens

THERE was a birthday function but being peak season there were no vacancies in the caravan parks, says the Kurrimine Beach Progress Recreation and Sporting Association.

KBPRSA president Terry Walsh's comments were sparked by criticism earlier this week over RVs being allowed to camp at the Kurrimine Beach

Progress Hall last weekend. The whole debate over accommodating touring holiday makers resurfaced recently with a recent suggestion to open Pease Park in Innisfail once a year to grey nomads heading south as a boost to the local economy.

Cassowary Coast van park owners and community groups have weighed

in. The latest comment came from Mr Walsh. "I cannot believe that a person who proposes to be a spokeswoman for caravan parks and tourist industry could write a load of hogwash which appeared in Wednesday's *Advocate*. At first I was going to ignore it but the facts needed to be aired," he said.

"The president of the Camper and

Caravans Association approached the Kurrimine Beach Progress Association and asked to book the hall at Kurrimine Beach for a birthday function. He also proposed that a number of motorhomes would like to camp at the hall over the weekend and pay a fee for doing so.

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Argument over RVs rolling on

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“This same group stayed in the Council Caravan Park here two years ago and were willing to do that again but as this was in the peak tourist season — last time they stayed it was in the off season — we had no vacancies in either our powered sites or non-powered area.

“The King Reef Resort was also notified and were fully booked.

“Contrary to the letter writer’s assertions, I certainly never received a phone call (from her) to check vacancies at the Council Caravan Park.

“The accusations that the Progress Association Hall is a drain on the community is unbelievable.

“Council records will show that the hall was opened in 1988 with financial help from council, but the majority of the cost was raised by a lot of volunteer work from dedicated

residents.

“The hall has always been self-sufficient with very little financial help from council.

“Major upgrades paid for by grants and like all not for profit organisations in the community we receive concessions with water and rates.

“We, like the writer, pay electricity and insurance.

“Because we have an excellent grants person we are constantly applying for grants to pay for upgrades and maintenance of our hall.

“The writer of the article knows all about the value of grants from their own successful applications.

“Mr Alan Rowley, who was the organiser of this particular weekend, was upfront and is a very community minded person.

“We received the usual fee for the hall and fees for all the vans which at-

tended this function together with a donation made for a healthy contribution to the association, who like all other non for profit associations, has very limited resources.

“I am sure Mr Alan Rowley together with his wife who are residents of Kurrimine Beach will respond to the attack on their association for this particular function and I am also sure that they will detail the contribution their association has made to local business and the area as a whole.

“I will conclude this by saying that the proprietor of the park down here who is also the letter writer is way off beam by taking council to task as the council advised Mr Rowley that their association had to deal with our association and not council as we are the responsible body.”



Recreational vehicles to visit South East for national event

MORE than 200 caravans and RVs will roll into the South East this October as part of a national event.

Lucindale will host the 2014 Australian Caravan Club Muster, with Yakka Park accommodating an estimated 350 people from October 13 to 19.

In a coup for the region, the eighth national muster comes just months after the formation of the South East's own ACC branch, the Limestone Coasters.

Muster committee coordinator Therese Gregory said the South Australian branch members were abuzz as preparations continue.

"We will have a full program of presentations by qualified guest speakers, information sessions, craft, games and competitions and tours of the local area to keep members busy during the day," Ms Gregory said.

"There will also be a dinner and dance and other social activities to take care of the evenings, culminating with the club's annual general meeting on October 18."

A community market will be held on October 12 ahead of the opening ceremony the following day, with an array of goods and produce available, as well as a charity car wash.

"With so many interesting places to visit in the district surrounding the venue, many members are likely to extend their visit to South Australia," Ms Gregory said.

"A number of branches will be organising tag-along tours from their own area to the muster and these are always fun and a wonderful opportunity to see more of this great country with other ACC friends."

Ms Gregory said business and tourism would be a major winner through the event and urged the community to welcome all visitors.

Contact Ms Gregory on events2014@australiancaravanclub.com.au for more information or to become involved.



Council urges residents to help build RV-friendly region

Residents, businesses and tourism operators interested in shaping Moira Shire Council's RV-Friendly Strategy have until September 24 to apply to join council's new RV-friendly working group.

Moira Shire Mayor Peter Mansfield said the recreation vehicle market and tourism had a lot to offer the shire.

"RV tourism offers some important opportunities for our smaller centres . . . because many RV tourists prefer to base themselves outside of the major centres," Cr Mansfield said.

"We want to work with the community and RV groups to develop an RV-friendly strategy that builds on the economic benefits for local towns, but also recognises the needs of local residents, businesses and other tourism operators."

The intention of the RV-friendly working group will be to assist the council in identifying opportunities and concerns across the shire, and begin planning RV-

friendly development opportunities.

"Our strategy will help our shire encourage and manage visits by RV users by planning for future infrastructure needs from additional signage and long vehicle parking to more options for free or low-cost overnight stays," Cr Mansfield said.

"Importantly, by adopting a shire-wide approach, we can look at how local commercial caravan parks and tourist operators can also capture and satisfy the needs of the growing RV, caravan and camping market."

● For more information, phone tourism development officer Louise Munk Klint on 5871 9222.



Little ripper: Mayor Peter Mansfield has plans to make the shire RV Friendly.



Market will keep growing



**Curtis
PITT**

Member for Mulgrave

COUNCILLOR Mark Nolan's suggestion to open Pease Park to visiting grey nomads has certainly sparked community debate.

In 2011 the Queensland Parliament Economic Development Committee examined the impact of grey nomads on rural and regional economies – and found that the economic impact was significant, recommending that the Government invest in promoting grey tourism. A recent snapshot of the Recreational Vehicle (RV) market shows that it is worth \$6.5 billion to the Australian economy each year, with travellers spending patterns more like residents in that they spend directly into the community on day-to-day needs – as well as spending at tourist sites. The typical spend is between \$500 and \$900 a week.

Grey nomads travel for an average 156 days with a growing number (currently 14 per cent) travelling on a permanent or semi-permanent basis on trips that extend beyond 12 months.

The industry is the fastest growing domestic tourism sector in Australia and has been for the past 15 years – over the next five years another 120,000 RVs will be manufactured adding to the existing 500,000 vehicles already registered. Many travellers use commercial facilities but the trend is towards fully self-contained vehicles utilising the Queensland's 470 motorist rest stops and 124 sewage dump facilities, as well as affordable commercial options.

The market is currently dominated by grey nomads born on or before World War II but will be dominated by Baby Boomers within the next five years, which will increase the market by around 60 per cent over the next 10 years. With so much evidence that rural and regional areas benefit greatly from RV tourism – and with a suffering domestic economy we need to embrace the grey nomads to boost local business.



Freeloader tag rejected

Cash aids area

Bruce Rockemer

bruce.rockemer@news.com.au

RECREATIONAL Vehicle (RV) campers have been unfairly tagged as freeloaders, says a Cassowary Coast advocate of free roaming lifestyle.

Alan Rowley, a resident of Kurimine Beach, said yesterday he was disgusted that some people considered RV owners did not contribute to the places they stayed. His comments fol-

low those of Kurrimine Beach van park owner Kay Kitchen who was critical of a group of 24 motor homes who parked on the grounds of the town's Progress Hall for a weekend earlier this month.

Kurrimine Beach Progress and Sporting Association president Terry Walsh said last week that the camping, for a fee, was allowed.

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Campers reject freeload tag

from page 1

This was because local van parks could not accommodate the group this time around. In previous years they had stayed at local van parks.

Mr Rowley, an avid motor home camper and resident of Kurrimine Beach, said he was the organiser of the RV gathering for his and his wife Jean's combined 60th birthday party, he and found the first report in the *Innisfail Advocate* on August 20 "offensive".

He said there were clear benefits economically, socially and environmentally of RV travellers to an area.

"I believe the perception of Innisfail region being not friendly can be changed," Mr Rowley said.

"I want to put this to bed once and for all.

"However before I do let's look at what these 'freeloaders' spent in our community over the weekend at a private function at the Kurrimine Beach Progress Hall.

"All figures are an approximation: Progress Association, including donation, \$1000, Kurrimine Beach Motel meals and alcohol \$1500, Kurrimine Beach Service Station, ice, fuel for boats and motor homes and towed vehicles, toilet paper, bread sundry items \$1500, alcohol purchased at Mission Beach BWS and Kurrimine Beach \$1200, water pump repair Innisfail \$400, presents purchased in Innisfail, Tully, Mission Beach \$2000, accommodation at Kurrimine Beach Motel \$300, meat and salad purchased in the local district approximately \$2000, Innisfail Hardware gas \$80, Tully Mitre 10 Gas and fittings hose fittings D bolts \$140, Tully Bait Tackle lures bait sundries \$150, Silkwood school fundraiser held at the King Reef Hotel \$400 plus raffles.

"I am a very passionate member of the Campervan and Motorhome Club (CMCA) and through this not-for-profit club we have been able to meet many great friends and assist many travellers visiting the Innisfail and greater Far North Queensland region.

"As well as being a passionate member of the CMCA, my home is Kurrimine Beach and we own property here.

"At the birthday celebrations we had a number of guests whom also own motor homes and are members of CMCA, and our local chapter called the Far North Nomads, of which I was the president for several years.

"We decided to value add to the birthday celebrations by conducting our monthly chapter outing, ensuring that many more members of CMCA could have a chance to visit the shire.

"Our guests were by written invitation only. I would approximate that

at least 20 of those guests were residents of the Cassowary Coast and some seven of those are owners of motor homes and current members of the Far North Nomads, CMCA.

"As is customary, the Far North Nomads meet monthly and I concluded that it would be of benefit to combine our birthday celebration in conjunction with the monthly chapter meeting.

"We are not in the business of allegedly sending caravan parks broke — this is an unsubstantiated claim that they are going broke — but we never once entertained the idea of holding this private function at a caravan park or asking our guests to book into one — not feasible.

"I communicated by letter to the Kurrimine progress society to canvass the possibility of utilising the local hall.

"With their approval I subsequently wrote to local council for their permission. I was informed that we did not require the consent of council but should be guided by the progress as-

sociation themselves. Approximately six months ago we were granted permission to utilise all facilities on offer at the Kurrimine Beach Community Hall.

"The progress association set a tariff for any motor homes that chose to utilise the hall grounds and facilities. Those that required power paid a premium to maintain the status quo.

"At the conclusion of the meeting and ensuing party, the hall was passed back to the progress association in the clean and tidy condition that it had been received.

"No one was out of pocket and there was certainly no cost to rate-payers.

"During the course of the evening we conducted raffles and all proceeds were donated direct to the progress association.

"I might add that had the progress association not been sympathetic to our cause, then the entire function would have been held at the Mareeba a motorhome friendly town whose facilities and cost are similar to those of Kurrimine.

"I find it inconceivable that Kay Kitchen was not aware that ours was a private function, rather than harbour preconceived ideas that we were just itinerant nomads looking to 'freeload'.

"I would have thought that for a person so well versed in the public arena, that she would have first checked the facts. For the past 17 years the Far North Nomads have hosted a Christmas in July at Mareeba as their major annual fundraiser.

"Hundreds of vans converge on the town and the resultant cashflow into the economy is approximately \$7



million per annum.

“Mareeba benefits enormously from this and records show that our club alone has donated between \$10,000 and \$15,000 to various charities annually.

“The upshot of Christmas in July is that many of the travellers then migrate to Kurrimine and similarly the local community benefits.

“If we chose the Mareeba option, I would not be wasting my valuable time answering such a poorly researched article.

Mr Rowley said the criticism the motor homeowners had received would not deter them from visiting Kurrimine again.

“As a chapter, this is the third gathering we have held in Kurrimine Beach and I can assure you it will not be the last, we have also used other areas with our inaugural gathering at King Reef, followed by the second was at the council (van) park.

“Supporting organisations like Kurrimine Beach Progress Association gives them a chance to become sustainable without relying ongoing council funding.

“I would personally like to thank these businesses for their support, King Reef Resort, Kurrimine Beach Motel and Service Station and the Kurrimine Beach Council Caravan

Park and Kurrimine Beach Progress Association and we will continue to patronise these businesses.

“It is my opinion that contrary to what has been reported by the *Innisfail Advocate*, the Far North Nomads contribute quite considerably to local community enterprises and should not be considered as a burden on rate-payers.”



RV campers gathered at Mareeba for their 2011 Christmas in July event.

Picture: Supplied

Cherrypool upgrade

By **ERIN McFADDEN**

CHERRYPOOL will receive new public toilets after a three-year battle.

Parks Victoria sparked community outrage when it removed the toilets at Cherrypool's wayside stop in 2011.

Since then Horsham Rural City Council has lobbied Parks Victoria, VicRoads and Grampians Tourism to rebuild the stop's toilets and picnic area.

After council negotiations with the Department of Environment and Primary



Mark Radford

Industries, the department released funding for the construction of new toilets, on the condition council assume responsibility for them.

Council agreed last week to be the management committee for the Cherrypool Wayside Stop Public Reserve.

Cr Mark Radford said the project was at an exciting stage now where the toilets would be rebuilt.

"It is important we reinstate the toilets for visitors who are passing through the area," he said.

"It won't be long now before they are up and running."

Cr Sue Exell said Cherrypool was a beautiful area that was strategically placed between Cavendish and Horsham.

Cr Pam Clarke said there was always a caravan stopped there.

Planning and economic director Tony Bawden said the toilet block had been identified as an important piece of infrastructure, supporting the Grampians Way project.

"The project is a major visitor dispersal project and its implementations and development is linked to the Horsham and Grampians 2012-16 Tourism

and Major Events Master Plan," he said.

Burnt Creek resident Libby Peucker is a campaigner for new toilets at Cherrypool.

She said a lack of toilets hurt Cherrypool's tourism.

"A lot of people travel for several months at a time and they use places like Cherrypool as freedom camping areas so they can keep their costs down and spend their dollars at shops in the area," she said.

"Not having toilets really discourages people from stopping in the area."



PEEL REGION

Have say on new laws

CAMPING enthusiasts have until September 1 to comment on proposed changes to caravan park and camping ground laws.

Local Government Minister Tony Simpson has issued the reminder, saying the existing 17-year-old laws were outdated.

The proposed changes include giving park operators longer licences, lower compliance costs and greater flexibility to meet consumer demands, giving users a greater choice and more affordable holiday options and providing simpler and flexible laws to meet the needs of the locality and to allow tourism to evolve and flourish.

“WA’s outdoor lifestyle means it has more caravan, camper-trailer and campervan registrations than any other State, with 30 for every 1000 people,” Mr Simpson said.

For more, visit dlg.wa.gov.au.



Camping law changes mooted

Monday is the last opportunity for WA camping enthusiasts to have their say on proposed changes to caravan park and campground laws.

The proposed changes include giving park operators longer licences, lower compliance costs and greater flexibility to meet consumer demands.

Local Government Minister Tony Simpson said the existing 17-year-old laws were outdated.

“WA’s outdoor lifestyle means it has more caravan, camper-trailer and campervan registrations than any other State,” he said.

“Whether you are a camper, caravan user, operator or long-stay ten-

ant, your comments are important to us.”

The consultation paper comes as the State Government implements its \$21.05 million Parks for People initiative, which aims to provide more high-quality, low-cost holiday options.

Tourism Minister Liza Harvey said she wanted to see WA established as a top destination for caravanning and camping.

The Department of Local Government and Communities will consider all submissions and then release a further consultation paper.

For more information, visit <http://dlg.wa.gov.au>.



SYDNEY RV GROUP WINS THREE BIG AWARDS AT NSW INDUSTRY NIGHT OF NIGHTS!

The Team at Sydney RV Super Centre at Penrith are celebrating the outstanding result of winning three major awards at the CCIA (Caravan & Camping Industry Association) NSW Awards Of Excellence!

On Wednesday August 13th at the Crown Plaza Resort in the Hunter Valley, the who's who of the NSW RV & Camping Industry attended the CCIA Awards Of Excellence Gala Dinner to acknowledge those who had excelled over the past year and celebrate the outstanding achievements of the industry and its members.

The crowd swapped their usual relaxed attire for a black tie dress code of stylish suits and beautiful gowns and eagerly awaited the award results, which spanned a variety of categories including dealerships, manufacturers, service agents, caravan parks & cabin accommodation and encompassed a large range of businesses from across the state. It was definitely Sydney RV Group's lucky night, with the Penrith based "One-Stop-RV-Shop" taking out a total of three major awards on the night!

The latter of which, is the RV world's equivalent to the Gold Logie at the end of the night and signifies excellence across all elements of the business.

Norman Roe, Sydney RV Group's Managing Director

could not be more thrilled or proud of his team's big achievement.

"These awards are very special because they are a testament to the hard work, passion & dedication that our whole team show's seven days a week, 365 days a year! We love nothing more than making our customers' dreams become a reality and supporting them at every stage of their RV journey."

Sydney RV Super Centre has grown considerably over the past 12 months, featuring a giant state-of-the-art Service Centre, a well-stocked Parts & Accessories shop and e-commerce site, as well as over 250 new & used Caravans & Motorhomes in stock, including all of the latest models from 6 leading manufacturers. They are a multi-franchise dealership and focus on giving customers the biggest & best range to choose from at one convenient location.

Sydney RV are your multi-award winning "One-Stop-RV-Shop" with a focus on exceptional customer service.

With exciting plans for continued growth in the pipeline, it's safe to say that the future really is looking bright for Sydney RV & the Caravan and Camping Industry in NSW...

Sydney RV were announced as winners in the following award categories:

- Best Dealer / Retailer / Wholesaler – Sydney Region
- Outstanding Achievement by a Young Achiever – Shari Norman
- The prestigious "Best Of The Best – NSW Trade" Award





Advertisement





Best gadgets on show at this year's Expo at Panthers

Over 160 exhibitors will display all the latest products and innovative new designs and technologies at the Penrith Caravan, Camping and Holiday Expo, organised by the Caravan & Camping Industry Association (CCIA) NSW.

Wish you had a convenient camplight or to be able to recharge the phone while camping in more remote locations? Or a satellite television system that packs away compactly atop your caravan or motorhome?

Independent and fuel efficient products, gadgets and new designs to make your caravan and camping experience more enjoyable and technology to keep you connected will be some of the products on display from September 5 until September 7 at Penrith Panthers.

"The Expo offers a fantastic opportunity for people to see the latest inventions, gadgets and products all in one place," CCIA NSW CEO Lyndel Gray said.

Products on display include a telescopic stainless steel tent pole that will illuminate an entire camp area, with the built-in LED's and batteries and the ability to recharge your phones and USB powered devices.

"There is no better place to find such an extensive range of products to get yourself ready for your summer holiday or your next trip - whether it be visiting some of our great NSW parks, or taking off around Australia."

The Penrith Caravan, Camping and Holiday Expo takes place over three days next weekend.

Gates are open from 9am-5pm Friday and Saturday and till 4pm on Sunday. Tickets are \$10 for Adults, \$6 Concession and children 16 and under are free with an accompanying adult.

Some of the products on display at the Penrith Expo include:

- The SCS 200t from Doble Outdoors, the worlds first, fully patented solar powered illuminated tent pole that

can also recharge your phones and USB powered devices.

- CAMPAQUIP has the new full size, cast iron, flat griddle plates to fit Weber Q models Q100 and Q200 allowing you to use your Weber Q as a normal BBQ, especially good for breakfast foods.
- Elite Caravans will feature their built in generator allowing you to press a button inside your caravan to start it up - a must have option for every caravan in 2014!
- The EFOY COMFORT Fuel Cell is available in all Elite Balistic Armageddon caravans providing 12V power enabling you to power the fridge and lights and creating battery power for 3-6 months.
- The SatKing Pro Max from Campersat is the very latest in flat-panel design, fully automatic, satellite television systems that does away with the need for a bulky dish and packs away compactly atop any caravan.



There's plenty to see at the Expo from September 5-7

Something for the whole family at this year's Expo

With Father's Day on Sunday, September 7, Dads have the opportunity to indulge in all things caravan and camping at the Penrith Caravan, Camping and Holiday Expo.

Offering a fantastic range, as well as a great day out for all the family, the Penrith Expo will have more than 150 exhibitors showcasing caravans, motorhomes, camper trailers, tents, kayaks, caravan and camping accessories, 4WD accessories, holiday parks and destination displays.

"This is our 13th annual event in Penrith and it brings together the best products our industry has to offer from impressive motorhomes with all the mod-cons to fantastic caravans and campervans, tents and everything else you need to make the most of your next holiday," CCIA NSW CEO Lyndel Gray said.

"Locally based gourmet catering company, Pepperberry Catering, will bring a whole new dining experience to the Expo with a range of catering outlets and a focus on healthier eating with fruit and vegetables sourced from their own farm."

Along with a huge range of caravan and camping products on display, the show has a great range of activities for the whole family to enjoy.

The Penrith Caravan, Camping and Holiday Expo takes place over three days, Friday, September 5 to Sunday, September 7 at Penrith Panthers from 9am-5pm Friday and Saturday and 4pm Sunday.

Tickets are \$10 for Adults, \$6 Concession and children under 16 are free with an accompanying adult.

Ms Gray said she encourages everyone in the local area to head down to the event.

"The 2014 Penrith Caravan, Camping and Holiday Expo is the perfect place to start planning your next holiday. Whether you're a touring novice or an avid enthusiast, you're sure to find something for your next adventure," she said.

"What Dad wouldn't love to spend their special day looking over the latest camping equipment and exploring their next holiday? The Penrith Expo offers a fabulous day out for the whole family."

See www.caravan-camping.com.au/ShowsPenrith for more details about the event.



There will be lots of displays at the Penrith Caravan, Camping and Holiday Expo



Time to have your say

CAMPING enthusiasts have until September 1 to make comment on proposed changes to caravan park and camping ground laws.

Local Government Minister Tony Simpson issued the reminder last week, saying the existing 17-year-old laws were outdated.

The proposed changes include giving park operators longer licences, lower compliance costs and greater flexibility to meet consumer demands, and giving users a greater choice and more affordable holiday options.

“Western Australia’s outdoor lifestyle means it has more caravan, camper-trailer and campervan registrations than any other State, with 30 for every 1000

people,” Mr Simpson said.

“Whether you are a camper, caravan user, operator or long-stay tenant, your comments are important to us and it’s important your views are submitted now.”

The consultation paper comes as the State Government implements its \$21.05million Parks for People initiative, which will provide more high-quality, low-cost holiday options for WA families and tourists.

Under the initiative at least 450 new campsites will be created in 16 national parks.

The Department of Local Government and Communities will consider all submissions and then release a further consultation paper.

For more information, visit dlg.wa.gov.au



RV-friendly plan unveiled

Three-month trials of short stay, low-or no-cost camping for recreational vehicle travellers has been suggested in a draft RV-friendly strategy approved by the City of Greater Geraldton council.

The draft is to be advertised for public comment over 42 days.

The trials would be at the Pages Beach carpark for self-sufficient RV travellers and at the Foreshore carpark behind the Sail Inn snack bar for campervans and small motorhomes.

The short stays would be to a maximum of 72 hours, although rangers could permit longer stays at both locations subject to the behaviour of RV travellers.

The 15 recommendations in the draft strategy include designating "RV-only" carparking areas at the Francis Street carpark, across

from Northgate shopping centre and Glenfield IGA and in the City No. 5 carpark opposite Stirlings Centre.

As well, the strategy suggests seeking council permission for travellers to sleep overnight in RVs which are undergoing repairs.

Other initiatives could include provision of a free public dump point and potable water supply near the CBD, signage on highway entry points promoting Geraldton as a "regional resource hub for RVs" and a comprehensive guide to RV services linked to the Caravan and Motorhome Club's website.

The draft report says capturing RV visitors who now bypass the City could realistically increase total overnight stays by 50 per cent or more, boosting the local economy by an estimated \$9.4 million.



Picture: The West Australian