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BRIEF CMCA-AUST INDEX 1.1

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COMPETITION



Get some holiday inspiration and hit the open road. Picture: Tourism Illawarra

Road less travelled

PACK up the bags and the family for your own all-Ausie adventure with a camping and caravan trip.

During the past year, camping holidays have risen by 16 per cent, according to the Caravan and Camping Industry Association NSW.

Domestic travel around the country is also up, with caravan parks expecting more than 11 million people for an overnight stay this year.

“Australians are recon-

necting with domestic holidays,” the association’s CEO Lyndel Gray says.

“There’s definitely a growing nostalgia for the traditional holiday.”

The annual Penrith Caravan, Camping and Holiday Expo is a one-stop shop for camping enthusiasts. More than 20,000 people are expected to attend the three-day expo at Penrith Panthers Exhibition Centre from Friday, September 9 to Sunday, September 11.

• We are giving away 165 double passes to the Penrith Caravan, Camping and Holiday Expo at Panthers Exhibition Centre. To enter visit newslocal.com.au and click on the competition tab. Select Penrith Caravan, Camping and Holiday Expo and follow the prompts. One entry per person. Closes on 5pm, August 22; winners drawn August 23; announcement on NewsLocal competition page on August 24. Authorised under NSW Permit numbers LTPM-16-00545. Terms and conditions at newslocal.com.au



Gawler RV-friendly bid revived

ATTRACTING RV (recreational vehicle) drivers to the region would significantly boost the local economy and tourism industry, according to Gawler councillor Ian Tooley.

Reigniting fresh debate, Cr Tooley revealed moves to make Gawler an accredited RV-friendly town would inject an estimated \$110,000 into the region every year.

Cr Tooley, who presented a report to council members last Tuesday, said encouraging visitors to the area would have enormous tourism benefits, making “Gawler a destination, rather than a gateway”.

“There’s a sector of the community, which is on holiday and in spending mode. A huge proportion of them are retirees, who are invested in these RVs,” he said.

“If you make them welcome, they will come and spend money.

“An RV person who parks their vehicle and comes into town would spend a conservative estimate of \$100 every time.

“By locating an RV park closer to the CBD, you facilitate those people coming in to buy petrol, groceries, clothing, going to the cinemas and eating at cafés.

“Here’s a perfect reason to make Gawler a destination.”

Gawler Council has been investigating the merits of gaining RV Friendly Town accreditation since it was approached by the Campervan and Motor Home Club of Australia in 2011.

A listed RV-friendly town must provide facilities and services, such as a dumping point for waste and grey water, a water-refill point and safe parking.

Addressing points of criticism, Mr Tooley said RV-friendly parks would complement local caravan parks, rather than take away business.

“It’s a different type of camper that you’re attracting into the town,” he said.

“Around 60 per cent of RV owners actually prefer free camping, rather than going into a dedicated caravan park.

“Meeting with some local business owners and the Gawler Business Development Group, they’ve given me their unanimous support.”

Cr Tooley signalled for council to identify potential sites for RV parking and a waste dump point, including the block adjacent to the old SA Water depot site, Goose Island, Dead Man’s Pass and Clonlea Park.

While his motion was stalled last Tuesday, the matter will be reconsidered at council’s next monthly meeting.

Laura Tilley

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Truscott fights to make region RV-friendly

THE push to make the Fraser Coast RV friendly will continue says councillor Paul Truscott.

At last Wednesday's council meeting, Cr Truscott put forward a motion asking for a report into potential changes to the council's Camping Options Strategy.

The motion narrowly passed by a vote of six to five and the report will be handed down next month.

The Camping Options Strategy was adopted only 17 months ago.

Cr Truscott said he understood some of his fellow councillors believe the original strategy needed time to work.

But Cr Truscott said he was not part of the team that had adopted the strategy and he believed changes could be made that would result in attracting more of the RV market to the Fraser Coast.

Currently RV owners are required to show a receipt

for a local purchase of \$10 to be entitled to stay overnight as part of the Stop and Shop strategy and Mr Truscott said that requirement needs to be removed.

He said the length of stay should also be increased

from 24 hours to 48.

The motion also suggested increasing the number of spaces for self-contained RVs within the Alan and June Brown car park and for options to be provided for suitable council land as camping options for self-contained RVs in close

proximity to the CBD.

Cr Truscott said making the Fraser Coast more RV friendly would not have an adverse effect on the region's caravan parks.

He said the RV market would continue to drive past the Fraser Coast unless more of an effort was made to bring travellers here.

"There are billions of dollars driving by us on the highway," he said. Cr Truscott said those with self-contained vehicles did not need the facilities offered by caravan parks. But he said those in need of facilities would continue to

find the region's caravan parks attractive options.

The Fraser Coast currently does not have RV-friendly status from the Caravan and Motorhome Club Australia, but Cr Truscott said with his changes he was confident the region could gain it.

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BRING THEM HERE: Councillor Paul Truscott says he will continue the push to make the Fraser Coast RV friendly status by advocating for more free parking for self-contained RVs. PHOTO: FILE