



Caravanning enthusiasts get in on the act

WEST Australians are being invited to have a second and final say on proposed changes to the state's caravan and camping laws.

Announcing the consultation period today, local government Minister Tony Simpson said he hoped people with an interest in caravanning and camping would comment on the first significant changes to the legislation since 1997.

The review of the legislation is part of the Western Australian Caravan and Camping Action Plan 2013-2018, made possible by the state government's Royalties for Regions program.

"With 30 caravan, camper-trailer and campervan registrations for every 1000 people in WA, it is important people with an interest have a say," Mr Simpson said.

"Public comment was first sought on the legislation in May 2014, opening a much needed debate on the outdated laws and the future of the caravan and camping industry in our state.

"The feedback received has informed a second consultation paper that contains recommendations for new legislation.

"I anticipate the new act will better meet the needs of consumers, operators and regulating authorities, reduce red tape and safeguard the health and safe-

ty of caravan and camping enthusiasts." The review comes as the state government implements its \$40.7 million Western Australian Caravan and Camping Action Plan 2013-2018 that aims to increase opportunities for locals and visitors to experience affordable, quality and safe caravan and camping holidays in WA.

Regional Development Minister Terry Redman said the review would provide operational efficiencies for local governments involved in the administration of the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995.

"It will enable the development of commercially sustainable caravan parks and camping grounds and contribute to improved investment conditions required for the growth of the industry," Mr Redman said.

"This Royalties for Regions investment in the review will contribute towards enabling co-location of facilities with businesses, encouraging more visitors and contributing to our regional economy."

Public comment on the proposed caravan park and camping ground legislation is open until November 30, 2015.

Submissions can be made at <http://dlg.wa.gov.au>.



Plan to get travellers to stop, shop and enjoy

COUNCIL | Nadine O'Neill

PROSERPINE'S Cr John Collins is on a mission — he wants Proserpine to become an RV Friendly Town.

He believes RV Friendly towns encourage RV travellers to stop, shop and enjoy what the destinations have to offer.

Cr Collins said, often located in regional country areas, RV Friendly towns prompt travellers to want to stop for a day or two or even longer.

"With many regional towns suffering from a downturn, this can be a god send to revitalise the local business sector and the economy of the area," Cr Collins said.

"We have the facilities to meet RVs' needs and not only do we have attractions around Proserpine but we can promote what's on offer around the entire Whitsundays region, and there's plenty on offer.

"I think a community that proactively promotes itself as being RV friendly would encourage travellers to stop and support that local community.

"I happened upon a link that the Home Hill Showgrounds shared. In the first 10 weeks of the RV season visitors to Home Hill were asked to put their receipts in a tin to gauge how much money visitors spent locally.

"During those weeks \$52,000 was spent between Ayr and Home Hill. This is the kind of money we could chase, I believe it's worth our while."

Cr Collins was speaking in favour of a motion at last week's

council meeting for council to investigate the suitability of Pat Botto Park as an RV Friendly stop.

He had raised the matter as a notice of motion earlier in the month but had been asked by councillors to table it pending further discussions.

Cr Collins said he thought Pat

Botto Park was a suitable location because of its proximity to Proserpine, the Bruce Highway and close enough to access Peter Faust Dam and tourist attractions at Airlie, the islands, and Bowen.

To qualify as an RV Friendly town, which Proserpine would do easily, the town would need to tick a number of boxes, including having access to 24-hour medical services, to pharmacy services, vehicle maintenance, groceries and fuel and providing short-term parking — 24, 48, 72 plus hours.

Cr Collins said he was aware the Proserpine Chamber of

Commerce had pushed the idea and said it was important that the Chamber, representing businesses, and the Canegrowers executive, representing surrounding farms, should be involved in the discussions.

"This is a conversation starter to get the ball rolling and we need these people on board.

"I really hope to get something happening. With the RV Friendly stop being trialled in Collinsville it's a good time to trial it in Proserpine," Cr Collins said.

The motion to get the ball rolling in relation to the matter was carried.



NOMADS NOT FREELoadERS

AFTER reading your editorial on November 2 about Wilks Park, which labelled Grey Nomads “freeloaders”, I feel that some facts or truth should be told.

There are in excess of 500,000 caravans and campervans registered in Australia and grey nomads spend on average \$150 at each town they stay in or visit.

Grey nomads do stay in caravan parks but the prices that some caravan parks charge are prohibitive for some who are on a limited pension, courtesy of our government. I feel offended that your journalist would write regurgitated rubbish about the the grey nomad lifestyle.

I myself served 33 years in the Royal Australian Navy and along with my wife, we pay our way at every town, village and city that we visit. We are far from freeloaders on any community.

Maybe your journalist would prefer all grey nomads keep on driving, bypass Wagga and spend their money further up the road.

Ross Ayton
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