

**Submission  
No 472**

**INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

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## **Submission: Inquiry into the Management of Public Land in New South Wales**

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The Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia Ltd (CMCA) are providing the General Purpose Standing Committee No.5 with this submission as we believe that the reallocation of public land for use by self-contained recreational vehicle (RV) tourists would significantly increase visitation to outback towns and regional areas, and therefore positively impact their economies.

The RV and camping market is becoming the fastest growing segment of the tourism industry in Australia. With over 63,500 Members, CMCA is the country's largest RV Club. As a not for profit organisation, CMCA works with a variety of stakeholders to promote and enhance sustainable and environmentally responsible RV tourism.

CMCA works with three of the major caravan clubs in Australia; the Australian Caravan Club (ACC), National Association of Caravan Clubs (NACC) and the Australasian Touring Caravan, Motorhome and Camping Club (ATCMCC) under the banner of MoTOURing Australia. This group represent approximately 500,000 RV owners and consumers and meets regularly to discuss relevant industry issues.

As the major consumer group and representative of RV tourists, CMCA is focused on working with the New South Wales Government to grow domestic RV tourism at both intrastate and interstate levels. To enable this we require legislative support from the New South Wales Government. CMCA has identified key areas to promote RV tourism in New South Wales and they are:

### **Freedom of Choice**

A key objective of CMCA is to develop new experiences and freedom of choice for RV tourists. This includes greater access to state and national parks, the development of regional and rural rest areas, and access to community land. For example, there are many showgrounds, racecourses and reserves that are currently being underutilised, as overnight accommodation access to them is restricted due to government legislation. These types of facilities make exceptional rest areas for self-contained vehicles and the subsequent economic injection leads to financial sustainability.

RV tourism can support these facilities by providing supplementary income to assist in the maintenance and upkeep of the property. By making Crown Land available for use by self-contained RV tourists, regional towns can maximise the financial benefits of the growing RV tourist market. It is anticipated that by making these facilities available, New South Wales could expect to see significant improvements in interstate and intrastate tourism.

### **Self-Containment**

In 1994, CMCA introduced the Leave No Trace® (LNT) scheme, which is now available to owners of all qualifying self-contained RVs who are a member of an RV club. Participants sign a declaration to abide by an 11 point code of conduct designed to protect the environment whilst travelling. It is also available to those companies that hire self-contained RVs in Australia.

Councils throughout Australia have embraced this scheme, and many have been more amenable to opening up new rest areas based on the fact that today's self-contained RVs cause little or no impact on the environment.

Getting there is half the fun

### **Dump Points**

Dump points address serious health and environmental issues, allowing safe disposal of grey and black water. In addition, self-contained RV tourists seek out locations with dump points, bringing tourism dollars with them.

Since 2008, CMCA, in conjunction with KEA Campers, the Queensland, South Australian and New South Wales Governments, has subsidised the placement of 'Dump-Ezy' dump point units throughout Australia, and has provided financial assistance to a significant number of councils for the construction of these facilities. Overall, 273 dump points have been installed across Australia through these CMCA affiliated schemes.

### **RV Friendly Towns**

Introduced by CMCA in 2006, this scheme is aimed at all RV travellers as they journey throughout Australia. An RV Friendly Town™ is one that meets a series of guidelines and provides amenities for RV tourists including low cost short and long term rest areas, and access to a dump point.

Travellers can visit any RV Friendly Town™ with the knowledge that they will be welcomed and adequately provided for. CMCA research has found that Members are more inclined to stay in an RV Friendly Town™ than a town not participating in the program.

### **Recommendations**

The social and economic advantages associated with the abovementioned areas of concern include strengthening the ability of regional areas to attract the ever-expanding RV tourist market, thus creating a financial boost to local economies, and the fact that they require minimal infrastructure and therefore a relatively small amount of time and money to implement.

Anecdotal projections indicate that the RV tourist market is likely to double by 2020. Some sectors are struggling to meet the needs of this group, but the potential is being recognised. CMCA has commissioned research into the value of this market force. The report clearly shows that the RV community gives preference to organisations and towns that consider the needs of the RV tourist.

Making Crown Land available for use by self-contained RV tourists would allow outback and regional towns to capitalise on the financial benefits this segment of the tourism market brings. Setting up sites with low levels of facilities would require little financial investment by local councils. These would provide RV tourists with low cost camping options which are highly desirable in this increasing market segment.

In conclusion, CMCA and MoTOURing Australia are committed to developing and maintaining a productive, working relationship with the New South Wales Government in order to achieve best outcomes for the state and for all RV tourists. CMCA represent a significant number of RV tourism consumers and would appreciate the opportunity to discuss our recommendations further.

  
Richard Barwick  
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