

The Chairman,
Competition Policy Review Panel,
Canberra, ACT.
Dear Sir and Panel,

So the Caravan Park lobby is to try to force people into their facilities, by claiming competitive neutrality is being abused by councils. Councils who want their constituent's businesses to prosper by encouraging drive tourism. Are they for real?? Oh that I could have complained to government that I had a competitor when I was in business. Well, we did have competition, so we had to do it better and so prospered, while they did not. There will soon be a whole group of travellers who would have used caravan parks in the past, who will avoid them like the plague in future. We are angry! And we talk to each other, either person to person, or via social media. If showgrounds or other similar facilities can provide a service that is required, then that is simply competition. Showgrounds charging a small fee for the rental of a small space can benefit the whole community. Showgrounds cost the local council and therefore the community to maintain. If CP owners want more business, provide a better service. A service that is required. If they expect to force people to use their facility, they are living in fairyland. How can you compare a piece of grass in a showground to a site in a caravan park, which has facilities such as laundry, showers, toilets, common areas for meeting, cooking and of course pools and jumping castles etc. One may cost \$10 a night, while the other will charge (say) \$30-\$40 per night. Sometimes a lot more. And doesn't the council that allows people to use a showground need the revenue from the showground.? The local ratepayers fund it, not just the CP owners. Competitive neutrality shouldn't be considered here, we as consumers are using 2 different services. I use both, but because of the annoyance I feel by having someone tell me I must use their facility, I am sure to use caravan parks less. Get with it, cajole us in. The more pressure you attempt to apply, the more we will resist. CP owners should target the (generally) younger generation, the family with a couple of kids who want the things that those family parks offer, swimming pools etc.

A quote from Professor Harper: Competition delivers choice for consumers – it means that the goods and services that are provided in the economy are the ones that consumers actually want. And small business can play a key role in making sure that all consumers' choices can be met by fulfilling niche markets or competing on better quality or a wider variety of services than is offered by the larger players

Thank you, and kind regards,
Ken Proud
Toowoomba Qld.