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## A new voice for the MoTOURing public

Four of the country's leading recreational vehicle (RV) clubs have joined forces under the banner of 'MoTOURing Australia' to better represent over 500,000 Australian RV owners.

Spokesperson Mr John Osborne said MoTOURing Australia is an alliance of the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA), Australian Caravan Club (ACC), National Association of Caravan Clubs (NACC) and the Australasian Touring Caravan, Motorhome and Camping Club (ATCMCC).

"Recreational vehicle owners travel in caravans, motorhomes, campervans, fifth-wheelers, slide-ons and camper trailers, and represent a significant portion of the population and a key domestic tourism sector," said Mr Osborne.

"The domestic RV tourist and camping market injects \$5.27 billion into the economy each year.

"MoTOURing Australia will give RV owners a voice on a range of matters that directly affect their RV experience."

The group has identified four key areas to address including freedom of choice as to where an RV can stay; road safety and education; environmental management; and improved benefits for RV owners.

"Camping is a very personal choice," Mr Osborne said, "There are those that enjoy the modern amenities and close neighbours of a caravan park, and those that prefer more basic and secluded camps."

Australians have always enjoyed the freedom of choice as to where to stay for their camping holidays, but this choice is slowly being taken away.

"Although there are more RVs than ever in Australia, there are less caravan parks, more regulations on where one can and cannot camp, and there is an inadequate supply of alternative camping locations," Mr Osborne said.

In response, MoTOURing Australia is working with governments, the industry and communities to raise awareness of these issues and ensure the great Aussie camping tradition continues.

"We have had some success in opening up under-utilised showgrounds and other areas for camping across Australia, but there is much more work to do," Mr Osborne said.

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The environmental impact of RVs, particularly in regard to the disposal of waste, is a real issue, but one that can be managed.

With only 469 public dump points across 7,692,024 km<sup>2</sup> of land, Australia faces a significant shortfall in facilities to safely dispose of waste stored in RVs, including grey and black waste water.

MoTOURing Australia member, CMCA, has been responsible for over 190 of these public dump points and is committed to increasing this number.

Full-time travelling is becoming increasingly popular, however Australia's licencing and registration authorities have not yet caught up with this trend.

"More and more people are selling up their fixed residences and hitting the road full-time," said Mr Osborne.

"Yet, each state and territory has different regulations on licences and vehicle registrations, not to mention that a fixed address is required to obtain these papers. This makes it near impossible to travel full-time."

MoTOURing Australia is working to improve the experience for RV tourists and is backing CMCA's RV Friendly Town™ scheme.

Towns participating in the scheme have met a strict set of criteria that includes providing amenities and services required by RV tourists. In addition, the local community possesses a friendly attitude towards these tourists. There are currently over 100 RV Friendly Towns™.

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Interviews and royalty free images are available

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