



OUTBACK DATE FARMS

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INFORMATION REQUEST

Application Number: PA7854

Approval Sought: Development Permit for Material Change of Use

Description of proposal: Undefined Use - Tourist activities associated with Outback Date Farm agricultural use and Tourist Park (self-contained recreational vehicles)

Location Details: Lot 2 SP258462 and Lot 74 SP258462

Information Request: Murweh Shire Council has determined that the following additional information is needed to assess the application:

Period of operation

Confirm whether the proposed activities (farm tours and camping) will be limited to the 7 month tourist season (April-October) referred to in the application.

TOURIST ACTIVITIES - Tours are generally confined to the 7 month tourist season of April to October each year. Occasionally an aviation, bus or organisation group will book via the Visitor Information Centre outside of tourist season but this is a rare occurrence and by appointment only.

TOURIST PARK - The self contained RV camping would mainly operate during the tourist season April to October. We plan to have it open year round (bookings via the HipCamp platform) but anticipate that demand would be minimal to non-existent during the hotter months of November to March.

Traffic generation

Provide details of the likely weekly traffic generated to the site for each land use activity (farm tours and camping), including type and number of vehicles and peak days/periods.

TOURIST ACTIVITIES - In 2025, 2,300 tourists visited Outback Date Farms. The majority were grey-nomad couples but there were also some singles and families. We had approximately 20 coach groups with an average of 20 each bus. $2,300 \div 400 = 1,900$. If we average that to 2 per car = 950 cars = approx. 30 cars/wk. Occasionally tourists bring their caravan with, maybe 2 or 3 caravans per week. Mark and 1 worker account for daily weekday trips.

Public tours operate Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, (April - October) with occasional group bookings on other days. The tourist season numbers follow a bell curve with a slow start and end, and busier middle months. (Teisha & Robyn will be able to provide more detailed information on the tourism trend numbers if needed.)

TOURIST PARK - As the self-contained RV camping is a new activity for us we have limited factual information as to uptake numbers. We are aiming to start by clearing 3-4 sites before the 2026 tourist season and seeing what the demand is like. We also don't know how long people will stay. We are initially working on 1-2 RV's per night average over the whole season, and very few during the non-tourist season. We are also not providing any facilities apart from a cleared area for each site, so that may be a drawback for some campers. Our own research has indicated that tourists like the idea of camping in the scrub, in peace and quiet, away from the bustle and noise of other campers. By providing an alternative option and encouraging tourist to stay longer in Charleville we anticipate that the whole community will benefit from the flow-on effects.

Thank you for the work you have done so far in assessing our application. Please contact us if additional information is needed.

Yours sincerely,

Mark & Veronica Hampel

28/10/2025