

Admin, LACO

Subject: FW: BNB sub no. 3

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From: Andrei Koeppen [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 25 November 2018 11:18 PM

To: Committee, Economics & Industry Standing [REDACTED]

Subject: AirBnB

Dear Committee Members,

We live and prosper in a free market economy. As far as I know, Stalanism is dead. If a home owner chooses to rent a room on AirBnB then the state's role is to provide a framework to ensure AirBnB users are provided an environment that meets basic health and safety standards. It is not the state's role to interfere in fundamental commerce. AirBnB is no threat to our local economy. In fact, the 3% commission that AirBnB charge is dwarfed by the fees that the dominant hotel booking sites are draining out of our country. The shared economy is here to stay and only fools would believe otherwise.

I encourage you to unshackle AirBnB, especially in regions such as Margaret River (where I live) where the Shire's planners (aka agents of the WAPC) seem intent on hobbling small family based enterprises with impossible guidelines and regulations, and threats of \$250,000 fines for non-compliance (this is not an exaggeration!).

If you don't believe in free enterprise, then perhaps it is time to reintroduce gulags for humble folks like me who can't afford a \$250,000 fine for renting a spare bedroom to some fellow travellers.

AirBnB is a wonderful tool. It helps simple homeowners make a modest supplementary income while also providing valuable social opportunities. It is a facility that your committee should celebrate, not denigrate.

Please, have the courage and fortitude to stand by the principles of common sense and free enterprise. If you want to achieve something useful, then please call off the Shire's dogs and put them back in the kennel. There are many ordinary people who will be a lot happier knowing they won't have to spend time in a Siberian gulag for listing a room on AirBnB.

Andrei Koeppen
Margaret River