

Research Project Information Sheet

Project Title

Ship ahoy! Cruise tourism to World Heritage Fraser Island (Ethics approval A/16/859)

Investigator

Dr Aaron Tham

Background

Cruise tourism has increased significantly in the Asia-Pacific region, with greater passenger traffic and larger all-inclusive vessels visiting Australia. One such recent development is the arrival of P&O Cruise Lines to Fraser Island. This has been viewed as a significant injection to the local and tourism economy on the back of a greater volume of tourists.

Research Purpose

The developments of cruise tourism have been postulated to bring positive effect to the cruise destinations. However, other less favourable impacts to the economic, socio-cultural and environmental landscape are likewise causes for concern. However, there remains almost no literature investigating the impacts of cruise tourism to a World Heritage Site such as Fraser Island, and the consequences to the broader Fraser Coast region. This research seeks to provide further insights as to the potential impacts of cruise tourism and how they are received by different stakeholders.

Participant Experience

Participation in the following study is voluntary and participants may withdraw at any stage, without explanation and there will be no consequences as a result.

You can choose to participate in ONE or BOTH of these initiatives:

- 1) Taking an online survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XRYC5T3>). The questions are related to cruise tourism impacts, with the questions derived from other academic sources related to cruise tourism developments.
- 2) Interviews conducted using phone/video conferencing software such as Skype. Please let me know if you also want to be involved as an interview participant by phone/email to my contact details at the bottom of this information sheet.

There are no right and wrong answers and all responses are anonymous. Consent to participate in this research is assumed by the completion of the survey or a signed consent form prior to conducting the interview. Consent is for the use of your data in this project and possible future projects.

Duration

Subjects will be asked to volunteer approximately 20-25 mins of their time to participate in this online survey.

Risks

This online survey is extremely benign in nature and will not cause any discomfort, although it is important to acknowledge that there is the remote risk of participants experiencing some psychological, social or economic risk. Therefore, if you experience any of these risks that are

perceived to outweigh the benefits of your participation, you can withdraw from this study at any stage.

Results

Once the results have been analysed, the findings will be used to help establish stakeholder perceptions of cruise tourism impacts on the Fraser Coast region. Results will be prepared in different academic outlets such as conference presentations, industry reports, journal manuscripts and classroom based case studies. A copy of the summarised results are available upon request.

Confidentiality

Data gathered throughout the study will be coded so that no participants will be personally identifiable (i.e. it will not be possible to find out which data belongs to any specific participant). All data collected throughout the course of this study will be kept in a locked file located at the University of the Sunshine Coast. No published findings will reveal the identity of any participant.

Complaints

If you have any complaints about the way this research project is being conducted you can raise them with the Principal Researcher or, if you prefer an independent person, contact the Chairperson of the Human Research Ethics Committee at the University of the Sunshine Coast: (c/- the Research Ethics Officer, Office of Research, University of the Sunshine Coast, Maroochydore DC 4558; telephone (07) 5459 4574; email humanethics@usc.edu.au).

Contact

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The Researcher and the University would like to thank you for your interest in this project and appreciate the effort involved.