



CARPENTARIA SHIRE

Outback by the Sea®

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15 June 2015

Research Director
Finance and Administration Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

By Email: fac@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

**SUBMISSIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE HOLIDAYS AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL**

I write on behalf of Carpentaria Shire Council in relation to the proposed dates for the 2016 Labour Day and Queen's Birthday holidays.

Council supports returning the 2016 Labour Day holiday to the first Monday in May.

Council does not support moving the Queen's Birthday holiday for June to the first Monday in October.

Carpentaria Shire is home to the Normanton Show, Rodeo and Campdraft which has traditionally been held on the Queen's Birthday long weekend in June. With the addition of the Normanton Show Holiday on the Friday, the annual Rodeo is able to be staged over three days while allowing the fourth day for return travel for competitors and spectators, many of whom travel over 1,000 kilometres one way to attend the event. The Normanton Rodeo held its 40th anniversary in June 2015 with crowds surpassing 3000 people. It is a major tourist event that brings significant tourist dollars to the town. This is a very important consideration as the Minister himself notes in his introductory speech in relation to Barcaldine. At a time of drought, the Rodeo is an important local economic driver that results in jobs in our small townships. Moving the Rodeo to the proposed date in October 2016 is simply not feasible. Temperatures in the region are usually in the high 30's – low 40's at that time of year. The heat stress caused to cattle and horses would not allow the event to be staged.

Council submits an alternative proposal for consideration. By allowing local governments a say in when the Queen's Birthday holiday is held, greater consideration may be given to local events and circumstances. This is similar to the current arrangements in determining local show holidays. For example, Carpentaria Shire Council could apply to hold the Queen's Birthday holiday in June whereas another Council wanting a public holiday later in the year could elect to apply for, say, an October date.



It is not proposed that the Queen's Birthday holiday be taken at any time of a Council's choosing. Such a scenario could lead to 77 Councils holding the holiday on 77 different days which is clearly not workable. However, the available dates could be narrowed down to provide, say, two choices – either the usual date in June or the first Monday in October.

It is respectfully submitted that some flexibility is required in order to cater for specific local circumstances and to avoid negative economic consequences in what are already difficult times in the bush.

Please contact [REDACTED] if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Bob Owen

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER