

4 July 2015

Dear Finance and Administration Committee,

I'm interested in the Labor Government's view on public holidays in 2016. Over the past two terms there appears to have been a tussle between Labor – who want Labour Day in May and moved the Queen's Birthday to later in the year – and the LNP – who want the Queen's Birthday to be in June and moved Labour Day to later in the year. If these holidays keep swapping upon a change in government it looks like revenge by the winning party.

My view is that both holidays should be celebrated on their traditional dates since both those dates are long established and also have international significance. Internationally Labour Day is traditionally celebrated on 1 May. Similarly in Australia, everywhere except WA, the Queen's Birthday is celebrated on the second Monday of June. Internationally throughout the Commonwealth of Nations and in the UK, the Queen's Birthday is usually celebrated on or close to that date (end of May to early June).

I believe that it is important to celebrate these public holidays not only on meaningful dates, but also at the same time as others around the country and the world who are also celebrating for the same reasons. It is an important part of community. This is more important in my view than to have a more even spread of holidays throughout the year on less meaningful dates. For example, Boxing Day or the Easter Monday holiday could be moved to October to provide a more even spread of holidays, but this would strip these days of their meaning and value to the community.

Kind regards,

Chris Gourlay

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