




Australian Rail, Tram & Bus
Industry Union
(Qld Branch)

RAIL TRAM & BUS UNION

Level 1
457 Upper
Edward Street
Brisbane Q 4000

 Public
07 3839 4988
Public Fax
07 3832 1278

 QR
812423 / 812950
QR Fax
813504

 Email
info@rtbu.com.au

www.rtbu.com.au

Holidays & Other Legislation
Amendment Bill 2012
Submission 002

24th August 2012

Mr Brook Hastie
Research Director
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Hastie,

Please find attached the submission of the RBTU regarding the proposed movement of Labour Day and the Queen's Birthday Public Holidays contained in the *Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012*.

We would be pleased to participate in further processes of the Committee to assist in clarifying our position if necessary. To that end our Principal Industrial Officer; Mr Peter Allen is the appropriate contact person.

Yours sincerely,

Owen Doogan
Secretary Qld
National President

your rights at work
worth fighting for

Authorised by Owen Doogan, Branch Secretary Rail Tram and Bus Union, Level 1 457 Upper Edward Street, Brisbane Qld 4000



Australian Rail, Tram & Bus
Industry Union
(Qld Branch)

RAIL TRAM & BUS UNION

Level 1
457 Upper
Edward Street
Brisbane Q 4000

 Public
07 3839 4988
Public Fax
07 3832 1278

 QR
812423 / 812950
QR Fax
813504

 Email
info@rtbu.com.au

www.rtbu.com.au

RTBU Submission Proposed Amendments to the *Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2012*

General

1. This submission is made in response to the proposed amendments to the Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2012 that seeks to move the Queen's Birthday public holiday to June and the Labour Day public holiday to October.
2. The Rail Tram and Bus Industry Union oppose the changes proposed.

Labour Day

3. Labour Day, also referred to as "May Day" is well known to be the celebration of the achievement of the 8 hour day as well as the recognition of the role of workers in the broader economy. The terms Labour Day and May day are used interchangeably given the historical significance.
4. May Day has been celebrated in Queensland for over 100 years commemorating the first march of its kind in this state if not the country, occurring on the 1st of May 1891. Reference to the significance of this event is found in the works of many including Henry Lawson. His poem "Freedom's on the Wallaby" was written as a comment on the march itself.
5. The movement of May Day to October would ignore the historical significance of the event.
6. The RTBU has throughout its history participated in Labour Day celebrations in May. The celebrations have brought together many thousands of families across the state in peaceful and well attended events providing a boost for local traders providing services to the events. Any change to the event which has the potential to reduce attendance would impact on local small businesses throughout Queensland.

Queen's Birthday

7. The Queen's Birthday has been traditionally observed in June despite the fact the Queen was born in April. Its movement to October would be of no historical significance and would fit with public sentiment.


worth fighting for

8. In December of 2011 the Queensland Council of Parents and Citizens reported that the feedback received from their membership and subsequently provided to government was that moving the Queen's Birthday to June is the preferred option. Given the nature of this group (ie. independent and with a very broad membership across geographic and demographic groups) their research should be preferred.¹
9. The view of the Queensland Council of Parents and Citizens appears to have been supported by research undertaken by the Queensland Government. The Queensland Justice Department's website (updated as at July 2012) indicates that following 'extensive community consultation' there was 'overwhelming' support for moving the Queen's Birthday, 'preferably to October'.²
10. Given that public opinion is clearly on the side of keeping the Queen's Birthday Public Holiday in October it seems trite to suggest that this is the most obvious and agreeable position for the Qld Government to adopt.

¹ <http://www.qcpca.org.au/about-qcpca/hot-topics/323-queensland-to-change-public-holiday-allocation>

² <http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/fair-and-safe-work/industrial-relations/public-holidays/changes-from-2012>