

VAUGHAN JOHNSON MP

MEMBER FOR GREGORY
CHIEF GOVERNMENT WHIP



Holidays & Other Legislation
Amendment Bill 2012
Submission 009

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28th August 2012

Mr Ray Hopper MP
Chair
Legal Affairs and Community
Safety Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Hopper

Scheduling of Labour Day Public Holiday

I write this submission in the interest of not only Barcaldine Regional Council but the residents of these communities as well. There a number of reasons that must be considered towards keeping the Labour Day holiday in May if not in its entirety for the state than at least for the Barcaldine Regional Council area.

As you would be fully aware the history of Labour Day goes back to 1891 with Barcaldine being the birth place of this event. This in itself is iconic, with the famous tree of knowledge loved and admired by many. This date in May is so much more than just a celebration of labour day to these dedicated people in the west. It is the weekend of a much organised and well planned Labour Day Festival.

This festival in Barcaldine is a much bigger event than the local agricultural show and showcases many things. There are many forms of racing held over this weekend. With country horse races and drag racing. Not to mention the very much anticipated goat races. There are many additional activities held over these few days concluding with the Labour Day parade on the Monday. In the small western communities of my electorate, these parades are supported by many organisations. The local kindergarten, schools, senior citizens, football and sporting groups to name a few. They are very much a carnival like event. Residents of close surrounding communities converge on Barcaldine to partake and be witnesses to this spectacular.

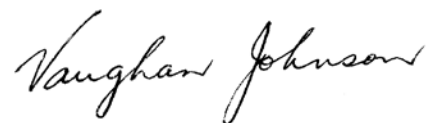
May and June are the peak tourism months for the west and many events right across western Queensland are scheduled for this time as we rely on the tourists to ensure they are successful. The Barcaldine Labour Day Festival is one such event. These events coupled

with our spectacular tourist attractions help to promote our history. Moving the Labour Day date to October would be very detrimental to this small but vibrant community.

Lastly the weather, namely the heat and often floods and fires make October too late in the year for holding such an event.

I urge you to reconsider the decision of a date change for the Labour Day Holiday or at least consider Barcaldine Regional Council on its own merits.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'V'.

Vaughan Johnson MP
Member for Gregory