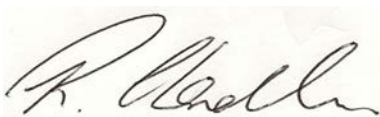


## SUBMISSION TO THE LEGAL AFFAIRS & COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012

- The holiday must stay on the Monday of the May Day weekend.
- This is a historic day in Australia's history.
- The first Labour Day march was held in Barcaldine on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 1891 when 1380 shearers and shed workers marched past the Tree of Knowledge in the main street.
- Barcaldine hosts a highly successful weekend of events known as the Tree of Knowledge Festival which includes horse, drag and goat racing; markets; parades; Sportsman's Dinner; free kids day on the Monday; richest goat races in Australia; and iconic horse racing.
- 3 years of Queensland events funding has been received to get the weekend to this iconic stage.
- The event is scheduled around other Outback events.
- There is a huge spend in other communities as people extend their holiday.
- Sponsors have done their money cold - Road Surfaces (\$25,000), Ripcord (\$20,000), John Walton (\$10,000), Council (\$100,000) and John De Groot (\$15,000).
- The event is scheduled around the peak Tourist season. Motels and airfares are booked from year to year. All neighbouring communities benefit from the accommodation demand.
- The May Day parade is for all community groups ie. senior citizens, kids, kindergarten, aged care, rugby league etc.
- The event has created a date claimer for weddings, reunions etc.
- It is recognised on Queensland Tourism's "100 Things to Do" list.
- The event relies on the tourism numbers to guarantee success. This submission has the support of Tourism Queensland, Outback Queensland and Central Western Outback tourism.
- The event showcases the bush to the city.
- Small businesses are closing now and cannot afford to lose their biggest take for the year.
- The October date is not suitable. The risk of fire and flood is very real. Visitors have left by October because of the heat.

I implore the committee to move the Queen's Birthday holiday to October and leave this historical May Day holiday where it is for the sake of history and our event.



Robert Chandler  
**MAYOR**