



30 August 2012

Research Director  
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
George St  
BRISBANE Q 4000

Email: [lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Sir,

#### **HOLIDAY AND OTHER AMENDMENT BILL**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 introduced into parliament by Attorney -General and Minister for Justice, the Honourable Jarrod Bleijie MP and referred for examination to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee of the Legislative Assembly.

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) is the peak body for local government in Queensland. It is a not-for-profit association setup solely to serve councils and their individuals' needs. The LGAQ has been advising, supporting and representing local councils since 1896, allowing them to improve their operations and strengthen relationships with their communities. The LGAQ does this by connecting councils to people and places that count; supporting their drive to innovate and improve service delivery through smart services and sustainable solutions; and delivering them the means to achieve community, professional and political excellence.

We have reviewed the Bill and sought urgent comment from our members on its implications. Unfortunately due to the minimal turnaround time for submissions, our consultation with our members has been limited at this time.

We note that the Bill as proposed effectively returns the public holiday observance of the Queens's birthday to June and shifts the current May observance of Labour Day to October. The net effect from a business perspective of these changes is the shifting of a public holiday from May to June which allows for a more even distribution of public holidays across the calendar year. We also note another positive arising from the proposed changes is the enhanced alignment of these holidays with similar holidays in other States of Australia.



While the Association has no objections to the changes and generally supports the concept of a more balanced redistribution of public holidays across the calendar year, we do raise the question on the timing of these changes taking effect. It has been brought to our attention (though the time permitted has prevented our seeking more detailed evidence of the expressed concerns) that a number of community organisations (and other organisations) may well have in fact booked venues and planned events based on the current gazetted public holidays for 2013. This level of forward planning is often necessary in order to secure venues and begin the event organising processes. It has been suggested that a 2014 implementation date for the changes might well have minimised any business disruptions caused as a result of this Bill.

Should any further clarification on these matters be required, representatives from my Association are available to respond to any queries from the Committee."

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Hoffman', is written over a horizontal line.

Greg Hoffman PSM  
GENERAL MANAGER - ADVOCACY