




Speech by

Darren Grimwade

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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HOLIDAYS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr GRIMWADE** (Morayfield—LNP) (4.09 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012. This bill proposes to relocate the Labour Day public holiday from May to the first Monday in October and to return the Queen's Birthday public holiday to its original date, the second Monday in June. Members of this parliament will understand that a review of Queensland public holidays was conducted by the previous government in 2011. This review revealed an overwhelming level of support to move a public holiday from the beginning of the calendar year to the end of the calendar year.

After reviewing the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's report on this legislation it became apparent that the review provided questions that were biased and loaded towards the direction the then government was heading rather than looking for an open review and seeking the thoughts of the community. To give members an idea of what I am referring to, one of the questions in the survey specifically stated, 'Do you agree with moving the Queen's Birthday public holiday from June to the second half of the year?' This clearly gives the survey participants only one option: to agree with this statement rather than provide feedback on the possibility of moving another public holiday further to the end of the year.

Participants in the 2011 review were able to make general comments on a whole range of issues being dealt with under the review in addition to answering the specific questions. There was no specific requirement to provide comments though in addition to answering those specific questions. However, on further review of the committee's work, it reported and revealed that 1,038 respondents chose to make comments in that review. It was interesting to note, as I further investigated through the committee's report, that the majority of those who chose to make comments on their survey indicated that they would prefer that they move the Labour Day public holiday rather than the Queen's Birthday public holiday if given that option. The committee's report also noted that there were 53 submissions received by the committee and, of those, 23 nominated the preference of Labour Day being moved and only 12 supported the move of the Queen's Birthday.

There is no doubt about it, the Australian way is to enjoy public holidays and spend some time with your family. Everyone looks forward to a long weekend, so to speak. Moving a public holiday from the beginning of the year to the rear would help assist the spread of public holidays we observe throughout the year. It would also have a number of other advantages, such as: providing uniformity with the majority of other states and territories where a public holiday is observed in October or early November; assist business and industry by breaking apart the concentration of public holidays that fall in close proximity to each other at the beginning of the year, which cause major disruptions and cash flow issues to business; and more evenly spread the public holidays and long weekends for families here in Queensland. Under the previous government, the decision was made to move the Queen's Birthday to the end of the year and leave the Labour Day holiday in May. Unfortunately, this did not fully address the concerns of evenly spreading the public holidays throughout the year. Moving the Labour Day public holiday from the first Monday in May and relocating this to the rear of the calendar year will assist in breaking up the cluster of public holidays that regularly occur around the April and May period. The decision to move the Queen's

Birthday holiday from June to October by the previous government merely put the state of Queensland out of sync twice with the rest of the nation in a six-week period because most other eastern states celebrate a June holiday and not a May holiday. This bill means that the Labour Day public holiday in Queensland will now be at the same time as New South Wales, South Australia and the ACT. It also means the Queen's Birthday holiday will be consistent with all other states and territories across Australia excluding Western Australia.

The syncing of these dates across the state and territories actually assists business and industry that operate across this nation. The review of the 2011 amendment to the Holidays Act 1983 showed strong community support to move the Labour Day public holiday as opposed to moving the Queen's Birthday public holiday. The move was also supported by a *Courier-Mail* survey earlier this year where more than 70 per cent of voters wanted the Labour Day holiday moved rather than the Queen's Birthday. It is important that, as we make decisions in this place on behalf of the people who we represent, we take their views into consideration. It is with this in mind and for the reasons I have outlined today during this debate that I will be supporting this bill tonight. I congratulate the Attorney for bringing it to the House. I commend the bill to the House.