



Speech by


**Michael Pucci**

**MEMBER FOR LOGAN**

Hansard Tuesday, 30 October 2012

---

## **HOLIDAYS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr PUCCI** (Logan—LNP) (4.42 pm): I rise today in support of the Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012. This bill sets out to streamline the Labour Day public holiday with the bulk of the states in Australia by moving it from May to October and returning the celebrations of Her Majesty's birthday to June, where it rightfully belongs.

As a Queenslander, I know that one of the core values we embrace is tradition. Tradition forms our character. It forms our identity. Since the passing of His Majesty King George V in 1936, Queenslanders have honoured the birth of our monarch in June. This tradition is more than just a public holiday; it is a day that is part of our national identity. In the United Kingdom the Queen's Birthday is a national day of celebration, celebrating not just the birth of our sovereign but decades of patriotism and service to a nation and the Commonwealth. It is a tradition that we here in Queensland should continue.

Queenslanders deserve to rightly celebrate our monarch's birthday like those in our fellow states. Last year the former government deemed it prudent to move the Queen's Birthday holiday for nothing more than the sake of it—yet another endeavour the tired old Bligh government embarked upon with no legitimate purpose or thought. Preservation of tradition is essential for the development of our society. We must be able to pass on and instil a sense of national pride within our youth. By restoring the Queen's Birthday holiday to its rightful place, the national identity for Queenslanders will be in keeping with those in other states in Australia.

I must point out that many groups in Australia work tirelessly to maintain and preserve our traditional observances like the Queen's Birthday. I single out efforts of the Australian Monarchist League and their Queensland branch, whose dedication in promoting and celebrating our monarch's diamond jubilee and the response it gained from the public demonstrates why our sovereign's birthday holiday must be returned to June. On the eve of the royal visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, the connections to Australia and Queensland's heritage are firmer than ever. A commitment to that connection is to align our state with our sister states and solidify the traditions of our great state.

Besides the preservation and restoration of traditional observances, this bill sets out to generate a reasonable balance in public holidays by appropriately distributing them throughout the calendar year. This will see a reprieve for businesses and industries that are significantly impacted by the high rate of public holidays within the April-May period which currently disrupt their operational effectiveness. Our government is about supporting small business. It is about supporting the everyday Queenslander and their ability to thrive in a commercially challenging economy.

With ailments such as the carbon tax, the rise in the cost of living and various other economic burdens, some businesses specialising in hospitality within my electorate of Logan say it would be more financially viable to remain closed than operate during the April-May period when public holidays are bountiful. Restoring Her Majesty's birthday holiday to June and by moving the Labour Day holiday to October and having an even distribution of public holidays across the year will undoubtedly ease the burden on small traders.

Furthermore, a public holiday is a welcome reprieve for Queenslanders. It is to be enjoyed. It is a day that one looks forward to. It is a day that should boost our economy, not be a hindrance to it. How many Queenslanders plan short holidays on these occasions? How many host friends and family barbecues and the like? How many hit the outdoors and enjoy what our great state has to offer? We must return a sense of structure and compatibility with our sister states. We must give our small businesses in the hospitality industry a chance to earn a profit, to generate revenue as well as providing our workforce with a gentle reprieve from time to time. I am proud of our traditions. I understand the fight that our local businesses undertake every day to turn a profit in tough times, and that is why I am proud to commend this bill to the House.