




Speech By  
**Mark Ryan**

**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2015

**HOLIDAYS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (4.00 pm): I had the great pleasure of representing the Premier in Barcaldine this year in May at the Labour Day celebrations. In my speech to the good people of Barcaldine, I reinforced this government's commitment to restore the Labour Day holiday to its rightful place in May. The roar from the crowd was unbelievable.

**Mr Brown** interjected.

**Mr RYAN:** I note the interjection from the member for Capalaba because his father was there, too. He was joining the march in Barcaldine. There is a good reason to support this change from the perspective of the people of Barcaldine. I spoke with the Mayor of Barcaldine Regional Council, Rob Chandler, and the former member for Gregory, Vaughan Johnson, who was there joining in the celebrations in Barcaldine this year in May. Gary Peoples was also there. These are people who are well known to the other side of politics. The people of Barcaldine are absolutely committed to supporting this change to restore the Labour Day holiday to its rightful place in May, not just for historic reasons but for the very reason that it is good for tourism for that regional area and for all of Western Queensland—as we saw in the submission by the former member for Gregory, Vaughan Johnson, in respect of the amending bill introduced in 2012 to unfairly and unrightfully move Labour Day from May to October.

In rising to support this bill, I want to make my contribution not only on behalf of Western Queensland and the people of Barcaldine but also on behalf of working people. We have heard contributions from those opposite today trying to demonise unions, but in demonising unions they also demonise working people, irrespective of whether or not they are members of unions. The Labour Day celebration in May is all about celebrating working people and the struggles they have had throughout the history of this nation and this state. We celebrate the struggles that have made things better for working people, whether they are union members or not. Of course the majority of those successes and benefits that have been achieved have been delivered by the trade union movement, and we are much better for the trade union movement because of that. I want to make the point that in demonising unions they demonise working people, and I think that is a great affront to all working Queenslanders who are enjoying the benefits and conditions that they enjoy today because of working people and unions that have gone before them. This is the right thing to do. Not only is it the right thing to do for Western Queensland; it is the right thing to do for working people. I encourage all members to support the amending bill before the House.