




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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HOLIDAYS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Miss BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (3.44 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. In my contribution I will focus mainly on one component of the bill. That is the component that restores May Day to its rightful place, in May. In doing so, it overturns the ideological attacks from the failed experiment that was the Newman government.

The party that I am a member of, the great Australian Labor Party, was formed in this state 124 years ago because of a simple grievance. It was formed because as long as a government could take away the rights of working people with the stroke of a pen workers had no hope of negotiating fairly with entrenched employer power and entrenched upper-class privilege.

The Labor Party was born in Queensland out of an industrial campaign in 1891. From that time, we have celebrated the justice that was brought about from the collective. Those brave Queenslanders were prepared to forge the way for a better future for all workers in our state and through that the collective has grown. As fair workplace rights like the eight-hour working day expanded, the justness that was found in the labour movement was celebrated each year through May Day.

Despite the underhanded moves from the Newman government, our collective stood strong and grew stronger. Just as we saw this collective shine in our state 124 years ago, workers' fortitude and determination has grown stronger in the modern struggles through standing together.

I am a proud unionist and someone who has been an organiser for a trade union for a decade. I understand the historical and cultural significance of May Day. I understand the attitudes of ordinary Queenslanders who were once again short-changed by the autocratic rule of the Newman government. This ideological change was the insult to the injury that was the way that workers and ordinary people were treated under the Newman government.

Further, the Newman government dismissed the public holiday review through 2011. As the member for Stretton pointed out, there were some 24,000 people who engaged in that review. There was strong majority support to move the Queen's Birthday public holiday to the second part of the year.

The argument from those opposite that this is ideological is spot on. It is ideological. It is what is right. It has been backed up by consultative reviews from former Labor governments. It is an election promise of the Palaszczuk government. I am a proud unionist and community representative who will see May Day returned to its rightful place in May. I commend the bill to the House.