




Speech By  
**Shane King**

**MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR**

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**HOLIDAYS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (4.03 pm): I rise to support the Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015.

**Mr Rickuss:** That's a surprise!

**Mr KING:** Isn't it? I will give those opposite a history lesson, like Grace did. Since 1891 Queensland's Labour Day public holiday has been observed on the first Monday in May. Over 120 years we have celebrated May Day in May, where it has rightfully belonged—that is, until 2013 when the LNP government used its overwhelming majority to shift this holiday to October. The LNP claimed they shifted the holiday to balance out public holidays throughout the year and shifted the Queen's Birthday holiday back to June as well. The Queen's Birthday holiday had been previously shifted from June to October by the Bligh government in 2012 in response to preferences expressed by the Queensland community in a consultative review of public holidays. As the Queen was born on 21 April, unless we shift the holiday to this date it has little significance when it is celebrated, unlike Labour Day. This historically rich day celebrates the legacy of the working people of this state, a holiday which recognises the struggles and achievements of working people whom we on this side of the House actually like—achievements like the eight-hour day, collective bargaining, minimum wages, and workplace health and safety, none of which would exist without the hard work of the labour movement.

Towns like Barcaldine, which was the birthplace of the Labor movement, have traditionally held a major community event around the May Day holiday. I understand that the Barcaldine Regional Council was dead against moving the holiday to October. However, in a move that I believe illustrates the LNP's ideological obsession against the Labor movement and their disdain for workers, they shifted the holiday to October anyway. This is a contradiction to their friends of the bush image. Country towns are dying and to shift a major tourism event to a time of year when it is getting too hot to celebrate much at all while claiming to be supporters of country folk defies logic and shows hypocrisy.

This bill will shift the holiday back to where it rightfully belongs, which not only honours our election commitment but also corrects the balance of public holidays in this state. I congratulate the minister and the department for their hard work and efforts in compiling this legislation. I commend the bill to the House. As my colleagues have said, May Day should be in May.