



The Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

In reply please quote: 548413/1

Level 18 State Law Building
50 Ann Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 149 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3247 9068
Facsimile +61 7 3221 4352
Email attorney@ministerial.qld.gov.au

11 MAR 2013

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
Corner George and Alice Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition No. 2052-13 presented by Ms Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Member for Inala, on behalf of the principal petitioner, Mr Jason Young, and received by the Legislative Assembly on 13 February 2013.

The petitioners call on Parliament to keep the Labour Day public holiday in May.

The appointment of public holidays is regulated by the *Holidays Act 1983* (the Act).

In November 2011 the former Queensland Government made a number of amendments to the Act. One of those amendments was to create a holiday in the second half of the year by moving the Birthday of the Sovereign (Queen's Birthday) public holiday from June to the first Monday in October.

The movement of public holidays is an important matter for individuals as well as business, sporting and community interest groups. In evaluating the changes made by the former Government to the Act, the Government considered a range of views including uniformity with the public holiday arrangements in other States and Territories, interruption of production under the existing arrangements and the spread of public holidays during the year. With those matters in mind, the Government decided to return the Queen's Birthday public holiday to the second Monday in June and move the Labour Day public holiday to the first Monday in October.

These arrangements will achieve:

- increased consistency with the majority of other States and Territories. In all other States and Territories, except Western Australia, the Queen's Birthday public holiday is observed on the second Monday in June. The Labour Day public holiday is observed across different months but New South Wales, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory observe the Labour Day public holiday on the first Monday in October;

(2)

- reduced disruption to production and services for business and industry that result from the concentration of public holidays falling in quick succession in the April-May period (ANZAC Day, three Easter public holidays and Labour Day). Moving the Labour Day public holiday from the first Monday in May will break up that concentration of public holidays;
- improved relief and rest available to workers as a result of a more even spread of public holidays across the year; and
- assistance to the Queensland tourism industry in general by returning the Queen's Birthday public holiday long weekend in June because this is a traditionally quieter time of the year.

To carry out the legislative amendments to allow for those changes in public holiday arrangements, the Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 (the Bill) was introduced into the Parliament on 21 August 2012. On Tuesday, 30 October 2012, the required amendments contained in the Bill were passed by the Parliament prescribing that from 2013, the Queen's Birthday public holiday is to be returned to its original date of the second Monday in June each year and moving the date of the Labour Day public holiday to the first Monday in October.

The Queensland Government is conscious that individuals, businesses, community and sporting groups and other organisations may be planning events for the former Labour Day long weekend in early May 2013.

Should your officers wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr David Fraser, Chief of Staff and Principal Adviser, on 3247 9068.

Yours sincerely



JARROD BLEIJIE MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice