




Speech By
Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2015

HOLIDAYS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.46 pm): I rise to address the Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. The objectives of this bill in Queensland include restoring the Labour Day public holiday to the first Monday in May and moving the Queen's Birthday holiday from June to October.

With Easter, Anzac Day and Labour Day occurring in close proximity on our annual calendar, there are a significant number of scheduled public holidays in the early part of each year. In government, the Liberal National Party took a common-sense approach by moving Labour Day to October and keeping the Queen's Birthday in June. This was done to ensure a better and more even spread of public holidays throughout the year. This had a justifiable basis creating a more even national alignment for public holidays with the Queen's Birthday being in June in every state except Western Australia whereas Labour Day is on several different dates, including in October, in some states.

The Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 is nothing more than payback to union bosses, including the CFMEU, Together union and ASMOFQ for their support at the January Queensland state election. Today we heard the Queensland health minister quote the federal AMA president, Brian Owler—the same Brian Owler who is the left-wing love child of federal Labor and health union thugs. The poorly performing Brian Owler is deserving of a long holiday and I am sure Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and the federal health minister, Sussan Ley, will give him and Bill Shorten a long holiday.

The day after the change of government in Queensland this year the Queensland Council of Unions' president, John Battams, was already issuing instructions to Premier Palaszczuk and Deputy Premier Trad on the timing of Labour Day, proclaiming that Labour Day would be returning to May.

Mr Dickson interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I take that interjection. Labor's move is nothing more than ideologically consistent with Labor's lack of vision, ongoing infrastructure freeze, wastage and inefficiency with respect to Public Service provision and higher transport and electricity costs for the taxpayers of my electorate and the people of Queensland.

Tourism operators have expressed the desire to have the Queen's Birthday public holiday in June to lure those from southern states during the winter months to Queensland for a long weekend. There were also a number of submissions from councils around the state which did not support Labor's changes. The Carpentaria Shire Council does not support moving the Queen's Birthday public holiday from June to October due to a number of local annual events being held on the June long weekend each year. The Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council submit that its preference is for Labour Day to remain in October.

I and my LNP colleagues oppose the public holiday aspects of the Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 as it is a retrograde move which is poor for business, tourism and Queenslanders in general. The Palaszczuk Labor government is beholden to unions and their shameful and dubious

practices including potential criminality as is being revealed by the Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption. The Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, like the Industrial Relations (Restoring Fairness) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 and the proposed Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, are all legislative evidence of an ideological agenda as opposed to best practice public policy for my constituents in Moggill and for the people of Queensland.