

To the Office of Industrial Relations,

In reference to the proposed Part Public Holiday on December 24 from 6 pm; I would like to oppose the proposal in its entire form.

The reasoning of opposing this Part Public Holiday is that it will only benefit a small portion of the Queensland population rather than entrenching the whole state with benefits. As Queensland is a multi cultural State, it's important to ensure that every person's needs are catered for in relation to cultural values and heritage. Many people do not celebrate Christmas on Christmas Eve and traditionally Christmas has always been celebrated on Christmas day in Australia. Some countries and regions of the world have traditionally celebrated Christmas Eve for many years including some residents of Queensland without the need of a Public Holiday.

While I understand and appreciate the philosophy behind having a Public Holiday on the eve of December 24 to ensure people are together with their families. Imposing a Public Holiday and its conditions on the grounds of this philosophical reason when it was never required in the past is a socialist endeavour taking freedom, free will and choice away from the overall community. This will impose extra cost for the consumer and business for those that want to enjoy Christmas Eve other than in residential environment with their family.

The costs associated with the Part Public Holiday will not only affect the hospitality and retail sectors, but also impose extra costs to the logistics and transport sectors, e.g. Public Transport and Air travel. These industries are vital around Christmas time and to impose extra cost to business and to the consumer is unjustified. The Queensland economy is struggling and in debt and to justify a holiday that will cost the public purse in increased wages is not in the interest of the Queensland taxpayer. To compare the South Australian example to a Part Public Holiday proposal in Queensland is irrelevant as the two economies are completely different in size and model. The South Australian Part Public Holiday from 7pm on December 24 was also tied to reform in the Retail Act ensuring all retail stores can trade unrestricted until 9pm on Christmas Eve which creates extra economical activity. This is not occurring in Queensland, which leads to no advantageous benefits for the community, consumer nor business.

The best Christmas present the Queensland Government could give on Christmas Eve is let business decide in negotiation with their stakeholders and employees the best option for them on Christmas Eve. This shouldn't be decided by the Government by imposing a Public Holiday especially when there are already three Public Holidays declared for the season and sometimes five Public Holidays, depending on when Christmas day falls.

Thank you for the opportunity for feedback on this issue and with evidence above, I hope the Part Public Holiday Proposal on Christmas Eve December 24 from 6pm is withdrawn permanently.

Yours faithfully.

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