

2 September 2019

Christmas Eve Part-Day Public Holiday Consultation
Office of Industrial Relations
GPO Box 69
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Via email: publichol@oir.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write in relation to the announcement by Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk on 4 August 2019, that the government will legislate to make Christmas Eve a public holiday from 6pm to midnight prior to Christmas this year.

Our Union represents members who are frontline staff and managers working in local authorities, the electricity, water, rail, travel, ports and shipping industries, community services, information technology, airlines and the private clerical sector. Many of our members, working in these industries, provide essential community services across Queensland 365 days per year.

For example, our members in the community services provide in-home disability support including overnight care for our most vulnerable community members. Electricity workers covered by our Union control and operate Queensland's electricity networks and power stations and provide emergency response in severe weather conditions. Our rail and airline members ensure the continual operations of their organisations which enable other community members the ability to spend Christmas with their families. Members in local authorities and water operate the water and sewerage treatment plants. Local authorities also operate bus services, traffic management and any other emergency response. Currently these workers receive no recognition or additional remuneration for the impost on them and their families.

The introduction of a public holiday on Christmas Eve from 6pm to midnight will provide workers with the recognition and incentive for working the unsociable hours and ensuring the ongoing supply of Queensland's essential services.

Additional benefits of a public holiday on Christmas Eve include:

- Providing valuable respite and allow workers the opportunity to take time off to spend Christmas Eve with family and friends or for religious or cultural reasons;
- Allow workers time off to travel to see their family and loved ones on Christmas Day;
- Increased wages through penalty rates - workers who choose to work on the part-day public holiday would receive the benefits of public holiday penalty rates as per the applicable award or agreement.

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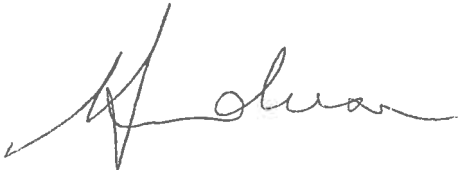
SECRETARY:
Neil Henderson
EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT:
Jennifer Thomas

- Increased consumer spending - the increase in wages through penalty rates may encourage increased consumer demand through an increase in disposable income.

The introduction of a part-day public holiday on Christmas Eve will be a significant benefit to workers in Queensland and we look forward to the proposed change.

Please contact Industrial Coordinator Rebecca Girard on 0438 168 171 if you have any questions in relation to this submission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Henderson', written in a cursive style.

Neil Henderson
Secretary