



# MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC  
Attorney General  
Minister for Industrial Relations

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Saturday, May 30, 2009

## NSW Government launches a review of public holidays

NSW Minister for Industrial Relations, John Hatzistergos, today announced a comprehensive review of public holidays which aims to provide more certainty for businesses and workers and avoid the confusion of the past.

Mr Hatzistergos said that the intention of the review was not to increase or decrease the number of public holidays but to simplify and modernise the gazettal process.

“The aim is to achieve uniformity in relation to when public holidays fall,” the Minister said.

“We want to provide certainty for workers and to avoid the confusion and disruption for businesses which has occurred under the present arrangements.”

Mr Hatzistergos said that as part of the process, which commences on 1 June 2009, there will be ample opportunity for interested parties to comment on the review.

“It is important that employer and industry groups, as well as organisations representing workers and community groups have an opportunity to have their say,” he said.

Mr Hatzistergos said Professor Joellen Riley, who will head the review, has a wealth of knowledge and experience.

“She holds degrees in law from the Universities of Sydney and Oxford, and has been teaching and researching in the field of employment and labour law since 1998,” he said.

“Professor Riley will consider the current and future operation of the Banks and Bank Holidays Act 1912 and issue a report recommending changes to modernise the operation of the legislation.

“The review make recommendations for possible changes to the legislation and other instruments which affect the creation and operation of public holidays and bank holidays in New South Wales.”

Professor Riley is due to conclude the Review in October 2009.

For more information go to [www.industrialrelations.nsw.gov.au](http://www.industrialrelations.nsw.gov.au).