



MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Industrial Relations

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NSW GOVERNMENT SEEKS COMMENT ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

NSW Minister for Industrial Relations, John Hatzistergos, today announced that a discussion paper relating to the NSW Government's review of public holidays is available for public comment until 17 July 2009.

Mr Hatzistergos said Professor Joellen Riley, from the University of Sydney, is conducting a review on behalf of the NSW Government on the current and future operation of the public holiday legislation.

"The finished review will recommend necessary changes to modernise the legislation and other instruments which affect the creation and operation of public holidays and bank holidays in New South Wales," he said.

"The discussion paper sets out the background information and identifies the significant issues that arise out of the *Banks and Bank Holiday Act 1912* as it currently operates.

"This includes a discussion about how the legislation interacts with relevant Commonwealth legislation including the recently enacted *Fair Work Act 2009*.

"It is important that employer and industry groups, organisations representing workers and community groups have an opportunity to provide input into the review. I urge them to read the discussion paper and provide feedback," he said.

Specifically, the discussion paper calls for submissions on:

- Additional and substitute days when celebrated dates fall on weekends
- The Queen's Birthday and Labour Day
- Local public holidays and half-holidays
- August bank holiday
- Weekend trading for banks.

Mr Hatzistergos said that the intention of the review was not to reduce or increase the number of public holidays.

"The aim is to achieve uniformity in relation to when public holidays fall; to avoid the confusion and disruption for businesses which can occur under the present arrangements and also provide certainty for workers" he said.

The discussion paper and further information are available at:
www.industrialrelations.nsw.gov.au

Submissions must be received by Friday, 17 July 2009 to allow Professor Riley to conclude the review by October 2009.