



MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Industrial Relations

Tuesday August 18, 2009

OPTIONS PAPER RELEASED ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN NSW

NSW Minister for Industrial Relations, John Hatzistergos, today announced the release of an options paper for public discussion prepared by Sydney University academic Professor Joellen Riley.

“The aim of the review is to streamline public holiday legislation to provide certainty for employers, workers and the general community,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

The Minister said the paper canvasses options for alternative public holiday arrangements which reflect the feedback received from the public in response to the discussion paper released in June.

“There was unanimous support for the laws to be updated to avoid the confusion and disruption for businesses which can occur under the present arrangements,” he said.

Key issues generating community comment include the treatment of public holidays which fall on a weekend, local public holidays, August Bank Holiday and weekend trading for banks.

“It is important that employer and industry groups, and organisations representing workers and community groups again provide input into this stage of the review,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

“I encourage interested parties to read the options paper and provide feedback, either by written submission or consultation with Professor Joellen Riley, who is conducting the review.”

Professor Riley will be consulting key stakeholders between 17 and 26 August.

“I have made it clear that the review will not be looking at increasing or reducing public holidays and any final decision will need to take account of the treatment of public holidays in other states,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

“The final report will recommend practical changes to modernise legislation and other instruments affecting the creation and operation of public and bank holidays in NSW.”

The options paper and further information about the review are available at www.industrialrelations.nsw.gov.au

Written submissions can be emailed to review@oir.commerce.nsw.gov.au and must be lodged by Friday, 11 September 2009. A final report will be submitted to the NSW Government for consideration in October 2009.