

# DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH

HON ELISE ARCHER MP

## *Statutory Holidays Amendment Bill 2022*

*\*check Hansard for delivery\**

Mr Speaker, I move that the Bill now be read a second time.

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II passed away on Thursday, 8 September 2022.

Her Majesty showed great affection for Australia, visiting on many occasions and revealing a nuanced and astute understanding of national affairs. As the first reigning monarch to visit Tasmania, Her Majesty cemented her place in our hearts, always greeting her subjects with characteristic warmth and interest.

Her Majesty was not destined to wear the Crown from birth, but took up the mantle, when it passed to her, of a life of public service with incredible dignity and fortitude. As a female world leader, Her Majesty provided inspiration and unwavering dedication, and a steady hand that gave great comfort to our Nation during times of uncertainty.

We take this opportunity to honour Her Majesty's life of service and to reflect upon Her legacy.

The Statutory Holidays Amendment Bill 2022 amends the *Statutory Holidays Act 2000* to declare 22 September 2022 a statutory holiday to commemorate the passing of Her Majesty. Like most public holidays, this holiday does not have any restrictions on trading hours.

I note that all jurisdictions provide for the responsible Minister to announce new statutory holidays from time to time. However, our Act has specific consultation, timing and Parliamentary review requirements that prevented this mechanism being used in time for 22 September. This Bill is, therefore, required.

A statutory holiday is, of course, very relevant to employment arrangements, payment rates and many other matters; and state and territory public holidays are recognised by the *Fair Work Act 2009* and other legislation of the Commonwealth.

I took care to announce the Government's intention to introduce this Bill to give retrospective effect to the holiday, well in advance of 22 September 2022. My Department, as a priority, consulted with key employment bodies and swiftly updated its

website with information about the new public holiday, to ensure arrangements were clearly understood.

Mr Speaker, I would like to conclude by expressing the great sadness with which we mark the event of Her Majesty's passing and honour Her deep connection with Australia and its people, and Her Majesty's dedication to duty as the longest-reigning British monarch, Australian sovereign and leader of the Commonwealth of Nations.

Our deepest condolences extend to His Majesty, King Charles III and His Majesty's family, during this sad time.

Mr Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.