

4 August 2015



ABN 82 109 145 619

27 Doveton Street North

Ballarat VIC 3350

t 03 5333 3233

f 03 5334 4501

[info@commerceballarat.com.au](mailto:info@commerceballarat.com.au)

[www.commerceballarat.com.au](http://www.commerceballarat.com.au)

Mr Roger Arwas  
Executive Director  
Small Business Victoria  
Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources  
GPO Box 4509  
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Mr Arwas,

Re: Regulatory Impact Statement on Proposed New Public Holidays

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed new Public Holidays.

Commerce Ballarat represents our 500 members and the wider business community on this issue and we completely disagree with an additional financial burden on the people who provide employment.

The analysis shows definitively that the introduction of the public holidays will cost the Victorian economy between \$717 million and \$898 million annually.

All businesses face severe challenges but in particular regional businesses, the introduction of these public holidays will not deliver employment or lifestyle benefits to our regions. It has been suggested that this could provide tourism benefits to regional Victoria, a survey conducted by Ballarat Regional Tourism indicated that 75.22% of their members were against this proposal.

The two new holidays widen the disparity between arrangements across Australia and will result in Victoria having a nationwide high of 13 days, compared to states like New South Wales with 11 and Queensland and Western Australia with 10.

The fallout from the introduction of these new costs for business will mean less businesses opening, reduced employment, and a severe loss of economic activity.

We call on the Government to accept that the evidence is in and this is not a wise decision for our State.

“I feel I change my mind all the time. And I sort of feel that's your responsibility as a person, as a human being – to constantly be updating your positions on as many things as possible. And if you don't contradict yourself on a regular basis, then you're not thinking.”

— Malcolm Gladwell

Yours sincerely

Jodie Gillett

Executive Officer  
Commerce Ballarat

**On the following 24 pages are comments from Victorians across the State:**

Carl Spencer 3350 Australia

Business doesn't need another day of unproductivity to attend a parade.

Margaret Murray 3340 Australia

The State Government need to understand more clearly that apart from the repercussions to small business it will affect employment as small business is collectively the largest employer in the state

Wendy Mitchell 3400 Australia

I am signing because business is already so hamstrung by public holidays. Interruptions along with additional wages is ruining small business as we have had more than enough. If this is the first election promise then we have a bleak future ahead

Cheryl Vawdrey 3350 Australia

I do not think this is the best economic outcome for Victoria and it was not something that was requested by the public

Abbie Wilson 3400 Australia

"As small business are already struggling with the tough economic climate this Public Holiday is not warranted. Then we will need a public Hoiliday for all sporting events. Where do you draw the line?? There are more things in this country that should be prioritised before a public holiday for a sporting event!"

John Fitzgibbon 3350 Australia

This public holiday is an unwarranted impost on business, there is no benefit to having another public holiday

Graham Keay 3400 Australia

We don't need another Public Holiday, it means we have to pay penalty rates when we are open, and it will bring less trade to the retailers.

Gary Howden 3400 Australia

I employ 75 people who would like to keep their jobs...

Angela Ballinger 3400 Australia

This is only benefits Melbourne and costs us dearly through loss of trade and income in Horsham. Not happy at all!!!!

Jeff Allan 3400 Australia

As a Small Business Owner it will only add more costs in these very tough economic times. Would not be a happy chappy at all !!

Malcom Schier 3390 Australia

We have enough public holidays already, will cost my business over \$20000 loss of income. I don't need that, my employee's don't need that and the general public don't need the price increase to compensate for it !

Glenn Carroll 3400 Australia

We have enough public holidays already

Paul Foley 3350 Australia

In times where businesses are faced with increasing costs and constant challenges, the productivity losses and raw economic costs business will incur as a result of an extra public holiday will be

damaging to the livelihood and viability of all business and therefore the employment opportunities and job security for our communities.

Christie Jones 3304 Australia

I think it's stupid and unfair I am a small business owner and we can't afford to pay staff

Sammi Baker 3350 Australia

Why does the AFL merit a Public Holiday? Costing businesses money needlessly.

Melissa Curran 3400 Australia

Small business cannot afford to lose a days trade in these tough economic times or pay penalty rate to employ staff. We need incentives to keep our doors open not to close. Obviously people making these decisions have little understanding of the cost associated with running a small business and employing staff.

Jason Hargreaves 3350 Australia

The costs of employing staff are ever increasing - we already have mandated increases in the statutory super rate and now a public holiday that has been made up with no consultation with small business.

Wendy Sanders 3355 Australia

I'm signing this petition as a small business owner. The impact that a public holiday will have on Victorian small business will be brutal. What a joke!!!!

Robert Young 3350 Australia

Ridiculous, people who enjoy the footy final will watch it on the Saturday and if they want to go to the parade on the Friday they can take it as part of their annual leave, simple.

chris cartledge 3350 Australia

"This is an utter disgrace ! It is hard enough to make a living let alone give another day off!! I thought the Mr Andrews was going to focus on more jobs! This is just about getting the majority to like him not on making the hard decisions that may lose him votes in the future."

Anne Nelson 3357 Australia

This proposal would result in a ridiculous cost to businesses. We do NOT need any more public holidays. How about fixing things that don't work, like Melbourne's horrendous traffic problems!

Horsham Plaza 3400 Australia

We have enough public holidays. Trade is difficult enough without reducing days. We love football but watching it on Saturday is sufficient.

Peter Deutscher 3350 Australia

Where else in the world would someone have a holiday for a football match. Business cannot afford this!

Ross Huntington 3356 Australia

I don't believe we can afford an extra public holiday

Ray Watson 3350 Australia

This is the most ridiculous thing that I have ever heard. I have a client with 1200 staff and at a minimum, this will cost them \$330,000 for the day.

Nigel Fitzpatrick 3350 Australia

Businesses and the economy cannot afford another holiday. This policy attacks businesses and will

push some businesses to the wall. Some other businesses will look more closely at substituting labour with machines or using labour in cheaper jurisdictions.

Susan Adam 3350 Australia

I don't believe that a public holiday should be introduced for a sporting event. Will we then get days off for cricket finals too? Small business and not for profit services cannot afford the increased costs this will incur.

Helen Hannan 3400 Australia

Too many small businesses are struggling. I bet there is a huge increase in unemployment due to small businesses closing down in the next 12-18 months

Dan Cronin 3350 Australia

The impact to business on public holidays is out ways the positive, if any to workers. The rates required to pay staff is extraordinary. Having a public holiday on a Friday(busiest day for retail and hospitality) is not acceptable.

Paul Ballinger 3350 Australia

"I oppose the proposal to have a public holiday for the Grand Final Absolutely absurd"

Timothe Lamont 3350 Australia

I am a small business owner with national clients and state based public holidays can be very damaging for business

Melanie Fulcher 3350 Australia

The financial impact it will have on businesses

Paul Hansen 3350 Australia

Crazy announcement by Labor government. Nothing comes for free, this will cost jobs. We already have a Melbourne Cup holiday for 4 million+ Victorians for a race attended by 100,000 people. Now the entire state has an entire day off for a few thousand to go watch some footballers drive past in a car for an hour.

Mike Lescai 3103 Australia

You wouldn't give a Union member a pay cut. Why should you make a small business owner take a pay cut.

Sue Ann Permezel 3350 Australia

We operate hotels and pay penalty rates on Public holidays. Plus corporate traffic slows down which also effects our business dramatically. Our new State Premier should take a reality check on what's really important to Victorians!

Rick Broadway 3350 Australia

Why would any leader declare a public holiday for all Victorians so that a few who live in or near the Melbourne CBD can watch an AFL Grand Final Parade. Although employees work hard, many employers are trading in tough economic conditions as it is and should be recognised for their efforts - not burdened with unnecessary additions to paid public holidays - created by public servants and paid for by employers and ultimately their customers/clients through higher prices which attract additional GST for the government who initiated the holiday in the first place! A win (employee), lose (employer), lose (consumer), win (State Government) scenario!!

Jo Curkpatrick 3352 Australia

We don't need this holiday, happy for Dan to break a promise with this one.

Edith Paarhammer 3342 Australia

Victoria is losing so many jobs with the auto industry closing, we just cannot afford another holiday. Small business is struggling as is. As business owner one gets punished for employing staff with payroll tax and now another holiday will drive costs up even higher. We cannot afford it.

Josh Todd 3352 Australia

It's bad for business

Alana Foster 3377 Australia

I'm signing this because we do not need yet another public holiday in Victoria. This is a national game not just a Victorian game. What happens when the Grand Final will be held in another state in the future? The Friday also falls in the school holidays and most people can organize a rostered day off or annual leave. It just isn't warranted.

Mari Ridsdale 3350 Australia

As a consultant in my own new business, with small business clients, we already struggle with rising costs and productivity challenges with the normal staff absentee/holiday allowances. Another public holiday, particularly for an occasion which may have economic advantages for the state but not for individual businesses, is not beneficial for the State of Victoria as a community.

Sally Waldron 3350 Australia

Small businesses do not need another public holiday. They are struggling as it is.

Greg Raggatt 3350 Australia

The additional economic burden placed on businesses as a result of public holidays is simply bad for business!

Pat Hope 3357 Australia This public holiday is not needed in Victoria.

Jennifer Hudson 3350 Australia

I work in small business. With increasing globalisation businesses have to increasingly find ways to remain competitive whilst keeping the population employed. Any additional costs significantly eat into already slim margins. Particularly at this time of slowed economic activity adding an unnecessary cost to small business for the sake of a popularity contest is grossly incompetent.

Darren Rix 3350 Australia

Isn't unemployment rising and car manufacturing about to stop in Victoria. Only a fool would make it harder to employ people in these times. God help our kids. They will ultimately pay when investment dollars go interstate and overseas and more jobs go. We need to compete and encourage more businesses to come here and employ people. Please let common sense prevail and axe this proposal.

Peter Kervarec 3350 Australia

I totally disagree with this holiday... its so wasteful and puts much pressure on small business.

Andrew Sculley 3352 Australia

seems unnecessary and a burden for business to bare ... why ?

Angela Mohr 3039 Australia

It's not needed and just puts too much pressure on small businesses

Keith Bartlett 3355 Australia

We cannot afford another public holiday,

Wayne Edwards 3350 Australia

The financial impost for business is too great to bear for the sake of AFL parade!!

Ben Ryan 3350 Australia

It is too significant an impost on business costs and will reduce overall employment.

Damien Adler 3354 Australia

It is hard enough to make ends meet in small business. An extra public holiday means lost revenue plus having to pay staff for a day that produces nothing. Small business cannot afford this.

Pam Sefton 3350 Australia

I do not agree that we need to have this additional public holiday. It would not affect many Ballarat people so we need to be open for business.

Barb Forte 3356 Australia

Small business. Would be another expenditure we can't afford.

Steve Johnson 3350 Australia

I run a sports store in Ballarat - the public holiday will increase my staff costs (including late Friday trading) and potentially adversely impact trade volumes.

Sharon Wallis 3055 Australia

The country cannot afford such extravagance.

Kay Macaulay 3350 Australia

Another public holiday is ludicrous. Businesses are struggling and do not need extra cost pressures placed on them.

John King 3350 Australia

We employ over 340 staff. The cost of a flippant public holiday has been poorly conceived with no consultation with any part of the economy footing the bill.

Amy Chalmers 3400 Australia

I employ 12 staff in two small businesses. Public Holidays already put a lot of financial strain on us. It takes ages for cash flow to catch up. We cannot sustain another day.

Chris Siddons 3142 Australia

Australia lives in the most dynamic region of the world, Asia Pacific. Right now our economy is struggling against the productivity and lower costs of our neighbours. We need more productivity not less or our living standards will go down and unemployment will go up, then we'll have a lot of "holidays" unpaid!

Shana Miatke 3400 Australia

I own a small business who employ's six people. Added public holidays will see us having to cut wages.

Phillip Lee 3350 Australia

A public holiday for the grand final - sounds like a joke gone wrong. How can any business afford to lose income for a day ? This is not a decision you would expect from any responsible state Premier. The only logical answer is that Daniel Andrews must have made this promise to keep his union cronies happy

Kizanne Davies 3350 Australia

"Victoria is not just made up of Melbourne. Regional areas love the AFL but actively support their

local teams. Having a public holiday takes away from our strong regional games. We don't have a public holiday for the Grand Final so why do we need a public holiday for the parade."

Mike Beaumont 3355 Australia

We as a Country will end up like some European countries, Broke. To be successful you have to work. No extra public holidays.

Simon Collier 3350 Australia

Negative economic decision CODB, and does not help families working in service or retail who will not get the day off anyway.

Robert McLaren 3345 Australia

"another public holiday will be another nail [n the coffin of productivity if the afl grand final is so important it could be taken as part of annual leave"

Tim Canny 3350 Australia

It's costs businesses so much money. We may as well close our doors.

Jon Anstey 3132 Australia

I believe this to be an added burden on SME's that is unnecessary and in many cases unaffordable, leading potentially to job losses. If the Labour Government want a holiday at this time in the year I suggest they should move Labour Day which is currently lost amongst other holidays.

Tim Davies 3350 Australia

Additional public holidays do not help anyone. It will hurt both businesses and workers alike. From the lost productivity, and additional pay rates for businesses that open, it will actually reduce the amount of work available on this day, therefore hurting the pockets of workers.

Jennifer Wood 3350 Australia

I own a business and cannot afford the extra public holiday cost in a retail environment that is already depressed.

Colleen Thomas 3350 Australia

We are trying to run businesses and keep people in employment...we just don't need ANOTHER public holiday....we have one for a HORSE race and now one for a FOOTBALL PARADE!.....

Dave Douglas 3350 Australia

I did vote for your party at the election. I did not vote for an additional holiday and for something as senseless as the AFL Grand Final Parade. I suppose it's too late to change my vote...?

Peter McErvale 3350 Australia

Perhaps the Labour Party would like to Declare a Public Holiday for anyone who supports the Winning AFL Grand Final Team as well - What a JOKE

Paula Tobin 3350 Australia

We do not need any more public holidays. There are plenty.

Matt Goonan 3350 Australia

We are small business owners in the retail field and another public holiday, especially on a Friday is one of the more ridiculous things I have heard in a while.

Deb Foskey 3888 Australia

This is an urban event of little relevance to country people. Frivolous and unnecessary.

Vicki Coltman 3350 Australia

Victorian business needs our support not another public holiday.

David Canny 3350 Australia

We simply cannot afford another day of penalty rates - It's school holidays anyway so kids can go to the parade and mum or dad can take a RDO.

Leanne Stork 3350 Australia

Why should we have to pay for a day off when there is no production on that day to pay for it.

Craig White 3690 Australia

It's only relevant for Melbourne CBD

Cellina Little 3690 Australia

The AFL parade does not bring business to regional towns as it does in Melbourne, therefore we pay a higher staff cost with no additional production to cover for the wages. It is an unnecessary holiday for people and businesses outside of Melbourne.

Scott Fraser 3691 Australia

This day has no significance to regional Victoria

Sue Lourie 3690 Australia

I run a small business and unless penalty rates change and we can open on public holidays without having to pay penalty rates, the day is too costly to open and Friday's in our business is the busiest day of the week. It will cost too much in lost revenue.

Phil Badura 3644 Australia

The costs associated with running a business are spiralling out of control at an alarming rate. An additional public holiday not only increases costs for business but also contributes another day of lost revenue potential.

Chris Lindhe 3690 Australia

"I'm signing because this is the worst possible reason for a public holiday that discriminates against every football supporter that doesn't live in Melbourne. A total waste of employer funds. Do you want to have zero employment in Victoria? You're heading towards it."

Peter King 3677 Australia

It is absolutely absurd to have this public holiday. The Employers don't need this additional expense.

Michael Lane 3690 Australia

Completely unnecessary and detrimental to regional businesses.

Shelley Jolliffe 3690 Australia

I'm signing because I own a small business and believe it has no relevance to our local area and the cost to employers. How many more sporting or related events are we going to create public holidays for?

ANDREW HOUSE 3690 Australia

We are regional business employing 85 staff and cannot afford a ridiculous public holiday

Brett Drinnan 3690 Australia

This extra P/H will disadvantage regional businesses as it will be a metro centric holiday. Not to mention costing businesses extra penalties in wages, of which we will not be able to recoup them due to current contract conditions. Not well thought through!!!!



Roger Benton 3690 Australia

Small Business has enough issues with the economy at present and Public Holidays are a drain on precious resources. And a PH for regional for Football for heavens sake. NO

Michaela Lobb 3000 Australia

There is no public holiday in 2015 for Anzac Day but they want to give a public holiday for a FOOTBALL PARADE. As a veteran's daughter I find this insulting and ridiculous!

Graham Jenkin 3690 Australia

As a small business owner I cannot afford this extra paid day off for my staff. It is also seems ludicrous, that if I understand it correctly, the Premier announced it was so everybody could attend the GF Parade. It is unlikely my staff will make the 610 km round trip to do so.

Ben Stewart 3690 Australia

This is an additional cost to a regional business with absolutely no benefit to our business or community

Anthony McGlynn 3690 Australia

Socialism is a great idea, until somebody has to pay for it. Get back to work & create a country that you & your kids will be proud of. Not one wallowing in Gov-mint debt.

Greg Haysom 3690 Australia

Another added cost to Small business

Maria Cotronea 3350 Australia

As a business owner, I feel that there is enough public holiday's

Michelle Rowson 3690 Australia

I'm signing because I believe it is absurd to gazette yet another public holiday for a sporting celebration!

Peter Ceeney 3842 Australia

We do not need to add further barriers in our competitiveness both locally, nationally and globally.

Allen Skilton 3690 Australia

"Our Community doesn't need a public holiday so another business can promote itself. Public holidays are for the community and they should remain that way. My business doesn't receive any financial benefit from this, my community receives no benefit if business fails due to financial stress..."

Anne Lafferty 3690 Australia

I am signing this because I have a regional business our council has just nominated a public holiday, for a local race meet, on a Friday. This is crippling to small business trying to make a living cover overheads and cost with throwing more money away for a non-productive day.

Dean Freeman 3690 Australia

This is too Melbourne centric and adversely affects regional business

Joy Barlow 3690 Australia

I am signing because I have never heard of anything so ridiculous.

John Butler-Cole 3909 Australia

This major issue is a political stunt to reward Melbourne residents and paid for by regional Victoria who failed to support the election of the 2014 Andrews Government

Deb McAlister 3690 Australia  
Job security

Gerard Heagney 3350 Australia  
We don't cannot afford this holiday

Chris Dziedzic 3690 Australia  
"How Ridiculous! Send employers broke. No No No No! A day off to do what? Parade is not even on TV. Hope it turns out to be GWS against Gold Coast in the final if you're crazy enough to get it through."

Natasha Callewaert 3690 Australia  
I own & operate a hotel in regional Victoria, to have an additional public holiday prior to the Melbourne AFL Grand Final puts a financial cost on my business unnecessarily for an event that is Melbourne centric. My advice would be to recognise it as a Metro Melbourne holiday only

Mathew Poppins 3690 Australia  
I am signing as a business owner who will be adversely affected by extra pay rates for a day that will have no value to myself or my staff

Alison Brewer 3909 Australia  
We need a reduction in penalty rates, not increasing them by making another totally irrelevant day a public holiday.

Rodney McRae 3690 Australia  
The cost to business reducing the productivity we are striving for.

Craig Mundy 3690 Australia |  
There is no relevance to our region of a public holiday in relation to the AFL Parade. There is however substantial additional costs to our business incurred by this proposed holiday

Benjamin Brown 3350 Australia  
I care about business in Victoria

Greg Wheeler 3690 Australia  
We already have more than enough public holidays, especially for sporting events

Bobbi McKibbin 3690 Australia  
This is the stupidest idea, the parade only effects Melbourne city. What about the areas outside of metro.... wake up there are other places in Victoria other than Melbourne!!

David House 3690 Australia  
I'm signing this because it is another business expense as well as lowering productivity. This is ridiculous

Allan Briggs 3195 Australia  
Victoria has more than enough PH's and it would be another costly impost on business which it just cannot afford

Greg Thomas 3690 Australia  
Enough public holidays already!

Matthew Tol 3350 Australia  
The extra public holiday will really hurt business and growth in Victoria. With Melbourne Cup and

other public holidays around the state for show days over the time of year, and given the economic environment we are facing, this is a ridiculous excess which the state doesn't need.

Chris Brown 3820 Australia

"I am a small business owner and we cannot afford to pay for any more public holidays. If the government want to give these holidays out, they should be compensating us for the cost!"

Lawrence Faustini 3350 Australia

Additional impact on Hospitality Industry like every other holiday. Way to ruin Grand Final season.

Mick Staley 3350 Australia

I think more public holidays are ridiculous and at a time when manufacturing is struggling and we have a most uncertain future??

Stuart Rayner 3004 Australia

I'm signing because Victoria's got enough problems and is only going to have more by the time the next election rolls round if this decision by our new State Government is any indication.

Jennifer Weller 2646 Australia

Its the stupidest thing I can image to have another holiday for a sporting event. AFL shows poor morals and values who wants to celebrate it - business already struggle with all the holidays we have we don't need another one

Robert Jackson 3145 Australia

We have 20 days annual leave, if you want Grand final eve off, take an annual leave day, don't hamper our competition

Mike Stephens 3352 Australia

I am signing because it is not up to the government to decide to give my staff a day off at my expense. They already charge me payroll tax for the privilege of employing people.

Anthony Stone 3350 Australia

We do not need another public holiday and will have a negative effect on Victoria's productivity

Michael Leonhard 3707 Australia

this is stupid and a waste of money for a football game. You idiot.

Glenn Mancer 3690 Australia

we already have too many public holidays for Melbourne centric events

Ron Morrison 3350 Australia

This is another impost on business as a difficult economic time. It is also simply a sporting event that does not warrant a public holiday in that bordering day.

Allister Morrison 3350 Australia

This proposal for a public holiday adds further costs to business in a very difficult economic time and reduces our productivity.

Carmel Halsall 3350 Australia

Being a retail business we can ill afford another public holiday especially on a Friday - when we are also affected on the Saturday because of the Grand Final

Richard Nicholson 3355 Australia

In the construction industry, we're already crippled by a 36hr week routine. To add another holiday to the already densely populated (with days off) working day calendar is unnecessary.

Gavin Morrow 3400 Australia

Just in my small business, my wages will be around \$3000 for the day plus the loss of income I will lose for the day (around \$5000) No one that I know from our area has ever gone to the Grand Final parade because we live three hours away.

Tracey Knight 3690 Australia

I own a business & it's too hard as it is we can't afford another day paying staff that aren't producing anything - wake up Australia we r in trouble & without work u can't have lifestyle!!!

Mark Patterson 3355 Australia

Cost to hospitality businesses

David Hay 3352 Australia

A grand final parade is no reason for a state-wide public holiday.

Bruce Sidebottom 3350 Australia

Unrealistic suggestion leading towards further loss of efficiency for especially small business employers.

Jeff Unmack 3350 Australia

I'm signing because I am a business owner who is already cutting back hours of staff and now you want me to pay penalty rates for the busiest day of the week or increase hours on the other days of that week to get our workload completed. Extra costs, NO extra income at all. I work in health which occurs every day of the year, so the needs do not reduce to tie in "nicely" with a Public Holiday. Typical Labor, can govern for the workers but assume owners are making a mint. Make the whole of Victoria pay for a Melbourne procession. Good one Dan

Amy Johnson 3350 Australia

We have enough public holidays already! Public holidays impose significant financial burden on businesses and impose hefty penalties on employers who must pay much higher rates just to have staff work that day.

Kim Tempany 3350 Australia

Cost already struggling business 1000's in lost revenue

Michael Condous 3350 Australia

we already have enough time off and the country is already very broke!

Elizabeth Skewes 3350 Australia

It's absolutely ridiculous. It's just another excuse to have a long weekend. No need for it at all.

Chris Hocking 3909 Australia

Small business owner and things are already tough enough

Chris Fuhrmeister 3909 Australia

I'm opposed to an additional Public Holiday

Ian Crellin 3690 Australia

"We are country. Not urban"

Robert Bowie 3909 Australia

I am a business owner and have a direct burden on my business

Andrew Cronin 3350 Australia

I am signing as a business owner that is already facing many costs associated with public holiday rates. We do not need any more to make our business go under.

Philip Sargent 3355 Australia

Already one of the weekends of the year for retail and hospitality. Now public holiday rates on the Friday. Most staff lose a day's pay because employers can't afford to pay them.

Trevor Cutler 3690 Australia

There is no economic benefit for country people to have a holiday for the day prior to the AFL Grande Final. This is just another burden on small business dreamt up by a politician that should know better.

Garry Squires 3888 Australia

My business and the country cannot afford it

Bianca Baker 3909 Australia

It's ridiculous!! It'll hurt small business & small towns!!

Steve Keen 3888 Australia

Being a Business operator in the country this affects us all in an already shrinking economy that can't sustain any more Public Holidays

Elaine Medhurst 3909 Australia

I am a small business owner who simply cannot afford another public holiday. With all the crippling costs associated with running a business these days yet another public holiday is another nail in the coffin for a lot of employers

Peter Taylor 3690 Australia

As a regional business owner, I strongly disagree with this additional public holiday!

Nick Webster 3228 Australia

I own a medium sized business which I have had to contribute my savings to for the last three years to remain afloat mainly because of stupid and intrusive regulation from government

Nadia Davis 3888 Australia

Don't need a public holiday for a football game bad enough we have 1 for a horse race

Lorna Holland 3016 Australia

As a Finance Manager for a business this farce of a public holiday will cost of additional monies for no return. The productivity that we would lose as a business is damaging to our business

Judith Jerkins 3909 Australia

I live in the country, dislike football and don't believe it necessary.

John Dawson 3690 Australia

We are a regional based business that sees no value in a public holiday for an event based in Melbourne that does not need a public holiday to promote it

Susan Honeyman 3350 Australia

As a business, additional public holidays add extra cost to an already struggling manufacturing industry.

Craig Richardson 3145 Australia

"its ridiculous Typical of a labour govt"

Jessica Kurrle 3909 Australia

As a small business owner, the additional public holiday is just another blow to our ever increasing penalty rates payable. As a newsagency having to open 364 days of the year, there is no option to close for the day so we don't lose money.

Damien Butler 3350 Australia

As an advisor to many small businesses in the retail, hospitality and tourism sector I have great concerns about another public holiday being imposed upon them.

Fay Campbell 3888 Australia

I'm signing because as a small business with staff, the existing public holidays make a big enough financial drain and it is unnecessary to compound the problem.

Margaret Turnbull 3909 Australia

Small business is struggling as it is and I think it is a ridiculous holiday

Maree Kennedy 3016 Australia

The additional Public Holiday will put businesses under unnecessary increased financial pressure.

Roger Veitch 3880 Australia

I can't afford to pay staff more public holidays.

Mick Colling 3888 Australia

this will hurt our small country business & I will probably have to put staff off on this day as we can't afford it.

Debbie Delahunty 3400 Australia

I am a small business owner and the loss of another day's trade will severely impact profitability.

Darren Andrews 3690 Australia

AFL Fanatic, This is ridiculous

Sydney McIntosh 3280 Australia

We don't want extra public holidays.

Bruce Kendall 3342 Australia

Additional public holidays only serve to reduce Victoria's competitiveness.

David Grieve 3108 Australia

As an SME advisor the cost of holidays is expensive to SME business owners and if they have to employ people for the additional holiday penalty rates are applicable

Maurie Edlund 3350 Australia

enough is enough

Debi Coller 3400 Australia

"I own a small business and another public holiday that will not benefit our community is ridiculous."

Graeme Dixon 3350 Australia

This is an additional and unnecessary cost to business. As a regional manufacturer it is bad enough that we face increased cost associated with location and adding another public holiday is damaging to our competitive situation.

Dennis Collins 3355 Australia

Enough is enough

Mandee Mintet 3166 Australia

I totally disagree with the introduction of an additional Public Holiday. This is another burden the manufacturing sector cannot afford.

David Doyle 3355 Australia

There are sufficient public holidays already

Sam Fraser 3350 Australia

There is a huge burden on small businesses already to provide employees with the entitlements they are entitled to, without allocating another public holiday. This is really unfair on small businesses who provide a huge percentage of Victorian jobs. Small businesses need incentives to continue operating not further expenses!

Jarrold Edward 3352 Australia

"This proposed holiday is nothing more than an attempt by the new Premier of Victoria to 'sweeten' up voters with a ""gift"" that will cost us all! Why in god's name you would propose a Public Holiday on the day PRIOR to the AFL Grand Final, rather than the following Monday is crazy in itself? The following Monday after the AFL Grand Final is one of the highest ""absence"" days for the year (I am guessing as a result of people enjoying the weekend with excess liquor)?? For the incoming Premier to propose a new Public Holiday in a state that is already struggling, shows very little regard for Victorian Businesses....and demonstrates an absolute disregard for those of us who has shown tenacity and continue to stand strong during a time where many other businesses are moving off-shore or closing down."

Fiona Edwards 3352 Australia

I have a small local business and this is just another ,,,"here let me put my prices up to cover another day off. Surely we have enough. Running a small business is hard enough without more added pressure. Silly silly idea ,soon there will be no shops for people to get jobs in. Don't make it any harder. PLEASE. ,!

Brian Canny 3355 Australia

I'm signing because we in small business cannot afford the expense of another public holiday

Jenny Burrige 3356 Australia

As a small business owner we are being hit from all areas, this is definitely one that is not needed.

Jamie Bell 3393 Australia

Victoria does NOT need another public holiday.

Russell Chester 3909 Australia

As if the country needs the economic stress of another public holiday: as a small business owner I feel this ridiculous! The Gov't needs to stop winning over voters with sugar coated crap and talk about the elephant in the room: the financial state of the Country!!!!

Frank Shelton 3363 Australia

I am a small business owner and it is very difficult to pay wages.

Sally Johnston 3880 Australia

We cannot afford for more public holidays when owning a small business!

Sally Johnston 3880 Australia

What is the Govt doing to our country??? Just keep on costing small business so much money that nobody local will have a job!

Joyce Currie 3355 Australia

It is a Melbourne-centric decision. How many Labor decisions reflect the fact that they think Victoria finishes at the edge of Melbourne

Angela Landua 3844 Australia

As a small business owner we have enough expenses and not enough time to get everything done as it is, having to pay our staff for another day off is just making things harder!

Paul Graham 3844 Australia

I run a business and do not support the costs of another public holiday. It will definitely affect employment prospects.

Sebastian Finocchiaro 3844 Australia

With increasing cost in business as it is, extra public holidays are not going to help the situation.

Tim Collier 3400 Australia

The rest of the world must laugh at Australia - if its not bad enough we have a public holiday for a horse race, we now have one for a game of football. First week back and this Labor Government has proved that it has no idea about small business.

Brooke Ashby 3350 Australia

Public holidays are reserved for historical events/milestones/great achievements. I am traditional, and also support local business - AFL does not deserve its own public holiday, let employees take an annual leave day if they so feel the need to attend.

MICHELE JACKSON 3880 Australia

As a small business owner, the cost of employing staff is more than 28% of our turnover and any further costs will mean we have to reduce staff to make our business viable. Victoria needs to work harder not less.

Jennifer Weller 2646 Australia

Enough with the stupid typical Labor popularity gambits. Rudd blew millions doing that and now you want to ruin many businesses to just to make another bludge day. Stop the garbage and get on with running the state competently and wisely. You've already wasted a couple of billion dollars not going through with the East/West link. If this idea is anything to go by then you're off to a bad start Dan or whatever you want to call yourself.

Vin O'Neill 3695 Australia

This proposed holiday is ill thought and serves absolutely no useful purpose in our community which is 300kl from the AFL grand final event. The economic cost to our area will be huge and not of benefit to our community.

Sue Gay3363 Australia

I agree with the petition - allocating yet another public holiday is very poor judgement. If it were to go ahead it would be very bad for our state economy. Just another union based sweet deal.

Michael Pearson 3133 Australia

This is a bad decision for business



James Garde 3141 Australia

The outlook for the economy does not permit the indulgence of an additional public holiday.

Bryce Heddtich 3342 Australia

Business needs to be viable and competitive in an international market space (ie - free trade, no tariffs). Our competitive manufacturing neighbours do not have such luxuries!

Anthony Quinney 3350 Australia

Another public holiday, not even a week in office and labour are spending money they do not have, yet again!!

Jock Selkirk 3350 Australia

Business productivity & profitability takes a significant hit with every public holiday. This is not what small business needs from the Government.

Cathie Robertson 3400 Australia

"No more public holidays needed for Victoria. Not good for the small business"

Leigh Facey 3350 Australia

This will negatively impact my business by adding cost without return on its investment.

Jo Hornby 3414 Australia

Small business does not need obstacles in their way, wages are already our major cost and public holidays compound that problem.

James Henwood 3400 Australia

I run a small business and penalty rates are too expensive to justify being open. The grand final will be great for Melbourne but does nothing for rural Victoria. It won't create more business for us if anything it will be less.

Olwen Gladwell 3023 Australia

I manage a business - this will cost our business a massive amount - it is ridiculous to have a day off for a football match,

Tanya Ryan 3281 Australia

I am totally against this proposal!! Small businesses are always the losers!!

Gerard Mast 3280 Australia

I am signing because it will be detrimental to business in country Victoria. The Grand Final is a sell out, and most of the crowd at the parade are city workers on a lunch break. All it will do is cause us to lose a days trade as we cannot afford the penalty rates imposed on us under Union pressure awards. And, yes, I did vote for you, thought you were smarter than this.

Keri-Anne Robertson 3280 Australia

this will add a greater cost burden to small business ...who will either close or will run on the day with only owners or family...so in affect will also affect employment and as this new govt is hell bent on hand outs I guess we will only see Vic unemployment figure go up!!!

Graeme Collins 3380 Australia

Just another hit to productivity that we can ill afford. "Disgraceful"

Jim Lonsdale 3400 Australia

The idea of a public holiday on the eve of the grand final shows how out of touch the new government is with country people and probably the general community. Stupidity at its worst.

Richard Elsworthy 3350 Australia  
It's a ridiculous idea.

Alan Valpied 3350 Australia  
Grand Final Parade just not a good enough reason to add yet another public holiday, which would only affect economic activity and productivity adversely.

Robert Francis 3352 Australia  
Owning a small business in Regional Victoria this is a very unproductive idea. Unfortunately, Victorians voted this Labor Government in, so everyone will pay the price in long run. I am actually very cynical as I have no sympathy for the Victoria voters and they will pay the price in the long run with higher debit and loss of jobs.

Garry Trotter 3350 Australia  
This is a luxury we can't afford!

Phillip Mann 3350 Australia  
Populist vote-seeking rubbish! Another unproductive burden for small business for no good reason

Justin Gilbert 3350 Australia  
What this State and Country need concerted effort to increase productivity. I have worked for private corporations and also public. The biggest impediment to business is serious productivity through your people / or the lack of...and to have a public holiday for a ticker tape parade? Are you serious? It's not even for the actual game that this is being proposed. Need the day...take annual leave or leave without pay, but why should business - small and large be burdened with this additional cost?

BRUCE THOMSON 3350 Australia  
WE DO NOT NEED ANOTHE PUBLIC HOLIDAY OF NO BENEFIT TO BALLARAT PEOPLE TO EXPENSIVE FOR OUR BUSINESS TO OPEN

Neil Doolan 3350 Australia  
It's very easy for the Government to give a public holiday but who pays? Mostly Business! Why are you doing this? It doesn't need to be done and even though I am not politically one-sided, it really makes me wonder if there was a deal done with the Unions before the election especially when the holiday was announced almost immediately after the election. I believe it was irresponsible to throw this out for discussion because no the general public expectation will be that they are getting an extra holiday. You are now in a position where you can't win. If you give the holiday it will cost the Govt (public service) money and the businesses. If you don't follow through with the holiday the employees will believe you have taken a holiday away from them. Feel free to call me. Neil Doolan.

Tanya Waterfall3280 Australia  
As a business owner we can't afford to pay our staff to work on public holidays & it's another day where we have trade without any staff

Marcus Everett 3351 Australia  
Business owners cannot afford another paid public holiday where they achieve no productive output for the day.

Margy Allen 3352 Australia  
We have enough overheads for businesses already.

Zane Conroy 3356 Australia  
We just can't afford the extra costs

Clare Bennett 3350 Australia

It is a busy trading day for retail with people planning their Grand Final celebrations. If anything - trade till 1pm on Grand Final day and allow retailers the afternoon off!

Jenny McErvale 3350 Australia

"I cannot see a more stupid reason to have a Public Holiday - the Grand Final is the occasion on a Saturday! Not the parade for 2 Teams - give me a break! PS Won't affect my business but I am sure it will affect many others!"

Alison Reed 3690 Australia

I don't believe this public holiday is good for regional areas but will detrimental to business.

Fiona Larkings 3747 Australia

This will have financial impact on small business.

Sue Backhouse 3690 Australia

I believe that to allocate an additional public holiday is a bad decision for regional business as the AFL Parade is a Melbourne centric event that has no benefit for the regions, and the cost of opening on that day (a Friday) is potentially very damaging to regional areas. The cost of paying wages for an additional public holiday is putting an additional burden on small businesses, with the result likely to be the straw on the camel's back for small struggling businesses - which may have a flow on effect of having an increase in unemployment in Victoria - both from putting staff off, and also if businesses have to close their doors - from wages costs and less income.

Xavier Le Vagueresse 3125 Australia

I'm signing because my business couldn't afford any extra costs and can't afford to lose more days of productivity

John Latimer Australia

"don't agree with a public holiday on a Friday so melb people can go to the final ....and probably not get in because of maximum crowd number....also a public holiday on the Friday then for retail back to work on the Saturday morning.... we don't all want to go to the footy anyway .....its bloody hard to make a profit now ..Without this..... break the promise like they will on so many other things....if we are to have a public holiday reduce our state taxes accordingly on small business because we won't be able to make any profit on the Friday ....hope Labor make up the loss of profit somewhere to spend on something else we don't need ...or we have to sustain a debt until the next coalition gets in ...NO MORE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS ....PARETICULARLY ON A FRIDAY...AN ANGRY JOHN LATIMER PLEASE ASK THE PREMIER TO RING ME .... JOHN LATIMER 03 5382 1208"

Vicki Natt 3418 Australia

I feel this is a very selfish idea, and is totally unnecessary, I am sure the people who want to go to watch the Grand Final Parade will get there anyway. It will hold everything up for the country people as we want be able to get freight out of Melbourne etc. Hope the politicians have a good think about what is best for the own State not just Melbourne.

Vicki Hodgson 3690 Australia

Why would the need be when metro Melbourne have a great turnout without creating another holiday. It is of course no benefit to us in rural Victoria who cannot make this event and the cost to us as employers is an astronomical expense to bare.

Libby Pattison 3690 Australia

This is the last thing I would have been interested in when making a voting decision and one I have only just found out was on the table. Do not put more pressure on our already vulnerable business

and manufacturing sector. We need more jobs not more public holidays. Besides, what an incredibly ridiculous reason for a public holiday.

Barrie Sutherland 3228 Australia

Small business has been under significant cash flow pressures for the past few years for several reasons, most notable ones are high level of unsustainable wages, penalty rates, taxation, falling productivity and skill levels, increasing bureaucracy and regulations, growing national debt levels, government over-spending, government project disasters and massive cost over-runs, etc. People have low confidence levels re retail spending. NO more PUBLIC HOLIDAYS without guaranteed productivity increase offsets. Labor simply does not understand the basic business economic equation.

Stuart Mc Farlane 3400 Australia

Your slowly killing off small business, Dan you just cost me \$2100.00 in wages!

Lynden Courtney 3350 Australia

Living and working in a Regional area there is no benefit for a public holiday for a parade in the Melbourne CBD. It is also a Friday - which is a strong business trading day in retail putting extra cost for casual and part time employees and reduced trading hours.

Clive Larkman 3140 Australia

My business cannot afford another public Holiday

Robert Lane 3280 Australia

"One of the most ludicrous and populist decisions ever made! It is a direct new cost to business. Somebody pays here. It ultimately must affect business profitability (how is that fair?) or job security or future employee remuneration negotiations to make struggling business models stack up (Not what struggling families need either I would have thought). Rethink this now!"

Vanessa Abel 3380 Australia

Business cannot afford to pay overtime for a Grand final public holiday.....It's mostly small business that pay penalty rates, big business have pay agreements and have wiped them out.....always the ones that can least afford it get hit!

Chris Anderson 3380 Australia

"I'm signing this petition because we already have approx two and a half months of paid leave without side leave including an extra 17.5 % on annual leave. We are told to be more competitive and then governments place on more costs. They are not serious about small business"

Karen Giddings 3380 Australia

I'm signing because I am a small business operator in a rural town and cannot sustain another day of not operating for customers.

Melissa Hudak 3500 Australia

As a business in far North West Victoria, struggling already because of drought we do not need the additional burden of another public holiday. Our business cannot financially afford this.

Geraldine Carey 3380 Australia

Not necessary

Tracey Crossley 3915 Australia

We already have a public holiday for one sporting event - Melbourne Cup. I don't think the business community should have to support another social day, that not everyone supports, nor do all businesses benefit from the extra cost. If the government is going to support a day like this, will they

support a day for the country folk, say a country field day to celebrate all things country and get the city people appreciating what the country people do. Do you think the city people would go for this? Cause that is what you are asking the regional people to do.

Mark Fletcher 3400 Australia

"small businesses have enough constraints without additional unproductive days at a cost to them"

David Coleman 3690 Australia

public holiday not needed or relevant in regional Victoria

Wade Morrow 3400 Australia

"I employ 29 staff in 2 business's. This one extra holiday costs me over \$4,000 in wages, and much in more in lost income. "

Cameron Russell 4069 Australia

It's already a struggle with current burdens of taxes and govt red tape. Hardly worth it right now.

Richard Lyons 3350 Australia

Industry is under enough strain already!

Kim Salmi 3381 Australia

I own a small business and cannot afford the lost productivity or penalty rates from another public holiday.

John Galea 3690 Australia

I'm signing as this would be one of the most ridiculous things I've ever heard, it simply has no relevance to anyone outside the Melbourne CBD, and it would make Victoria the laughing stock of the nation.

Tania Oldaker 3350 Australia

Do we also need a public holiday for the opening of an envelope?

Simon Jones 3380 Australia

This is ridiculous and damaging to small business.

Dean Cinque 3350 Australia

the economy cannot afford any more

Lawrence Faustini 3350 Australia

Businesses have enough excess costs lumped by government intervention. A public holiday in Melbourne has no use in regional areas.

May Sennett 3840 Australia

"Small business is doing it very tough and every time there is a public holiday it costs the employer. After 42 years in the travel industry I have recently had to down size my business due to stress brought on by the pressures of running a small business."

Deborah Noske 3840 Australia

"I own a small business that opens on Public Holidays and we would find it difficult to find even more funds to pay employees. Thank you"

Graeme Holland 3672 Australia

"we have become a giveaway nation to the point that educated people can't even balance the financial books . Stupid educated people will bring our great nation to its knees. Learn from other rich nations that no longer exist }"

Kyra Rheese 3672 Australia

This is detrimental to small business being able to provide jobs in Victoria

David Joseph 3672 Australia

Because of the added economic burden and the sheer vulgarity of the proposal - No More Bread and Circuses!!

Michael Thomson 3672 Australia

I agree with the argument on the impact on small businesses of this proposal and more strongly - There are things more important than AFL, time to put things in perspective

David MacKinnon 3672 Australia

We have enough public holidays now & the grand final has always been at the weekend. It does not inject the same amount of money for the state economy that the Melbourne Cup does which is now an international event.

Ian Davies 3672 Australia

Cost to small business is not fair, a ridiculous idea

Lance Gawley 3672 Australia

I run a plumbing Business, this holiday will cause me more expenses. You cannot run a Business if the staff are continually on Public Holidays and RDO's

Felicity Munro 3672 Australia

Penalty rates already cripple my small business to the point where I have laid off 2 casual staff. More jobs will go the more you make employers pay to do business.

Sophie Haxby 3673 Australia

This is Ridiculous - where does it stop. Why is the footy so important? If it gets one why shouldn't every other sport?

Annette Decker 3672 Australia

Small business is suffering enough they should not have yet more cost thrust upon them, for the sake of a football game. It's enough that the country stops for a horse race.

Jennifer Wellard 3672 Australia

I am a small business owner 13 public holidays is enough!

Graham Parker 3672 Australia

Trading conditions are tough enough without the prospect of another public holiday & the costs involved with it

Andrew Cowan 3672 Australia

there are enough public holidays that we lose money on making it harder and harder to survive in small business by adding another one .

Janet Cox 3672 Australia

How will small business afford to pay staff (hospitality) on a day where people celebrate their teams.

Sandra Adams 3136 Australia

It's ridiculous!

Andrew Bertalli 3672 Australia

If there is a public holiday we still have to work. We are a manufacturer

Christine Hanks 3300 Australia

We have a country bakery, regional Victorian businesses are struggling now without another public holiday which very few would use for its purpose

Glenn Garland 3555 Australia

Lost wages for casual staff. Lost profits for business means lost taxes????

Leanne de vries 3898 Australia

there are enough public holidays already!! It's hard enough to keep up with staff payments without extra.

Paul Clancy 3145 Australia

"Grandfinal day is one of our busiest trading days of the year, to now be hit with a public holiday on the lead up is another blow to business.."

Trevor Ewert 3854 Australia

My small business cannot afford to not open on this day but at the same time cannot afford the additional wages that will be incurred for rostering my staff that day

Julie Preer 3730` Australia

It is ridiculous, the cost to business is excessive and we do not need any more public holidays, especially such pathetic ones! Country business owners will just bear a cost of this public holiday with no benefit at all - shame on the government ... do they even realise what a public holiday costs small business owners?

Wayne Krause 3350 Australia

Extra public holidays is an economic burden with costs increasing and revenue decreasing, it is not the right time. It will mean business owners will have to work this time, meaning time away from families. Just do not do it!!!!

Neil McKenzie 3204 Australia

At a time when the nation needs to adjust to weakened economic circumstances, it is irresponsible to add the burden of another public holiday to an already long list.

Brendan Gillett 3350 Australia

The reason behind the public holiday is the most egocentric & metrocentric proposal I've ever heard. What happen if an Adelaide team is playing in grand final & all country Victoria is closed for the travellers the day before.

Phill Crone 3350 Australia

It is a ridiculous, costly, embarrassing proposal

Anne McFarlane 3350 Australia

I am a small business owner and am extremely concerned with the discussions the Victorian government are making

James Morphy 3220 Australia

Business is hard enough let alone another public holiday, I employ 120 people and it costs me \$40k for every day we have as a public holiday. It's getting too hard to recover taxes, superannuation, work over, land tax, payroll tax, council rates, compliance costs..... It is getting too hard to do business in this state..

Leanne Francis 3350 Australia

we do not need anymore public holidays. Vic has 13 in total which is such a drain on business

Alistair Osborn 3153 Australia  
Labor destroys regional small business

Jaqui Harvey 3796 Australia  
As a small business owner, it is costing me in \$ and production delays at my busiest time of the year - my employees are not even interested in football!

Diane Hyde 3765 Australia  
I am an accountant. I see the majority of my small business clients struggling in the current economic climate. Many are keeping staff on, despite having little work for them, just hoping for an improvement in business. They do not need additional employment expenses at this difficult time.

Rod Eddington 3134 Australia  
The last thing this state needs right now is more public holidays.

Kathie Freeman 37969 Australia  
The spiralling costs of employing staff impact heavily on small business operators. If we close there is still outgoings and if we open our costs are double

Sue Roney 3152 Australia  
It is an unnecessary burden to small business owners. We do not need another public holiday especially when the majority of people don't care about the AFL!

Timothy Holland 3752 Australia  
We are a small business owner. We will be forced to close which impacts our business. In addition due to the closure, the osteopaths do not work and see no clients therefore they do not get paid either. Not good for working families and small businesses, just another burden and cause of anxiety by this Labor government.

Simon Clark 3350 Australia  
An absurdly focussed public holiday which reflects no particular community values, benefits or gains.

John Gleeson 3355 Australia  
The disruption and cost involved with another unwarranted public holiday is highly counterproductive to our small business model

Colin Leatham 3888 Australia  
Please do not allocate an additional public holiday for Victoria

Clint Voss 3888 Australia  
I'm a small business owner and I believe that we don't need any further public holidays. Wages have already increased massively in the last ten years and I believe that this is just another bashing of small businesses.

Pauline Eddy 3747 Australia  
Not everyone follows AFL so why should we have a public holiday for it.

Kate Commins 3896 Australia  
We do not need another public holiday- especially for a football game!

Julie Holmes 3875 Australia  
I agree with the points put across in the body of the petition.



GERALD MEAGHER 3350 Australia

This is an obviously reckless and un-costed decision made in consultation with only rouge unionists. It makes you wonder what havoc our new Premier will do to our glorious State?

Ginni Howlett 3862 Australia

I believe we have enough public holidays in our country, and am against the idea of a new public holiday due to the impact on our economy.

Alan Forte 3815 Australia

It is not fair to penalise struggling small business owners who have no interest in the AFL.

Harry Emmerzael 3216 Australia

I strongly disagree with the Friday public holiday on the eve of the Grand Final. We already have far too many public holidays. The state (country) can ill afford it.