

Community & Public Sector Union (SPSFT)

The union for public sector workers.

CPSU (State Public Services Federation Tasmania) Inc. | CPSU (SPSF Group, Tasmanian Branch)

Monday, 9 January 2023

Hon Jeremy Rockliff
Premier & Minister administering the State Service Act
L11 15 Murray Street
Hobart TAs 7000

By email: premier@dpac.tas.gov.au

Dear Premier,

In June last year you told the Tasmanian parliament that you supported changing the date of Australia Day from 26 January to another day. You indicated you were concerned the debate about Australia Day was 'becoming increasingly divisive'.

In July CPSU members served you with a log of claims. This included all the issues our members wanted to have addressed in the upcoming bargaining. One of the claims was to have Public Sector Awards amended to give employees the right to swap the Australia Day holiday for another day. It is extremely disappointing that you rejected that claim.

You indicate a concern about the debate being divisive yet when your employees put forward an option that would mean workers who consider Australia Day to be the celebration of the invasion of Australia, an invasion that resulted in dispossession, in massacres, in disease, in the loss of languages and culture, in the taking away of children, you reject that option.

On becoming Premier you said *"It is my plan to lead a government with integrity, a government that is courageous, accountable, delivers on its commitments, but above all I will lead a government with heart, that listens to Tasmanians' needs and ensures Tasmania's priorities continue to be our priorities. My vision for Tasmania is simple: it is to be a place where everyone feels valued, included, encouraged and supported to be the best they can be."*

I ask that you review the decision you have taken regarding Australia Day before 26 January 2023. A government with heart, one that truly wants its people to feel valued, included, encouraged and supported would at the very least give them the option to shift this divisive holiday to another day.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Lynch
A/General Secretary
CPSU (SPSFT) Inc.

