



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media statement

August 17, 2017

Australia Day is January 26

JANUARY 26 is more than a public holiday marked with a barbecue, beer and sun – it's a day where we recognise the remarkable nation we've become, welcome new Australians into our community and it's a date that will not change, Maranoa MP David Littleproud said.

"We all recognise our history's challenges but on Australia Day, we also recognise the greatness of our achievements," Mr Littleproud said.

"Reconciliation is about changing attitudes, not trying to bury our history with a date change."

Mr Littleproud's call to keep Australia Day came after Melbourne's Yarra Council voted unanimously to change the way it marks January 26, from 2018 onwards.

"Some are trying to use Australia Day – a day which unites us – into a day to divide us," he said.

"Each bush community in Maranoa acknowledges Australia Day – whether it's a thong throwing competition, lamington making classes and citizenship of new Australians, it's a day which brings the community together.

"I represent wonderful communities, large and small, across more than 42% of Queensland and each Australia Day event commences with an acknowledgement or welcome to country because we respect our First Australians – the oldest human civilisation in the world.

"Australia Day isn't trying to forget about the past – it remembers where we've come from, celebrates our achievements and looks towards a future of who we would like to become."

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