

## Bligh Grant

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**From:** office@graftonchamberofcommerce.org.au  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 27 October 2021 6:26 PM  
**To:** Bligh Grant  
**Subject:** RE: Seeking your feedback: Prospective dates for 2022 1/2 day PHs Grafton Race Days

Good Evening Bligh

Thank you for reaching out for feedback in regards to the half day Public holidays for the CRJC for 2022.

The Grafton Chamber of Commerce are happy to offer their support as we recognise the Carnival and what it brings to our town as being extremely important.

We would also like to acknowledge that it can be a very challenging time for some business with the cost of wages involved with two ½ day holidays for the racing Carnival.

We look forward to seeing the continued success of the Carnival

Regards  
Grafton Chamber of Commerce

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**From:** Bligh Grant <Bligh.Grant@clarence.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 26 October 2021 9:35 AM  
**To:** office@graftonchamberofcommerce.org.au  
**Cc:** president@graftonchamberofcommerce.org.au  
**Subject:** FW: Seeking your feedback: Prospective dates for 2022 1/2 day PHs Grafton Race Days

Dear Grafton Chamber of Commerce,

I write to follow up seeking feedback on the suitability of the dates below for the half-day public holidays for CVJC for 2022 in addition to those already listed on Council's website.

I have received letters of support from Jacaranda Festival Inc and Maclean District Business Chamber; a letter or an email from the Grafton Chamber to accompany the submission to the Minister would be good.

We are going to submit the application to the Council meeting in November, so ideally a submission from you before 5 November would be good.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call.

Thank you,

Bligh.

Bligh Grant  
Governance Officer  
(02) 6641 7203  
www.clarence.nsw.gov.au



We acknowledge the Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr and Yaegl people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live and work. We honour the First Nations peoples culture and connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



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Think of the environment. Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to.

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**From:** Bligh Grant  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 October 2021 3:28 PM  
**To:** 'office@graftonchamberofcommerce.org.au' <[office@graftonchamberofcommerce.org.au](mailto:office@graftonchamberofcommerce.org.au)>  
**Cc:** 'president@graftonchamberofcommerce.org.au' <[president@graftonchamberofcommerce.org.au](mailto:president@graftonchamberofcommerce.org.au)>  
**Subject:** Seeking your feedback: Prospective dates for 2022 1/2 day PHs Grafton Race Days

Good afternoon Grafton Chamber of Commerce,

Clarence Valley Jockey Club has proposed the following dates for its main race days, with the accompanying half-day (i.e., 1pm to 5pm) public holidays:

Ramornie Hcp: Wednesday 13 July 2022 1-5pm

Grafton Cup: Thursday 14 July 2022 1-5pm.

Council would be pleased for you to offer feedback on the suitability of these public holidays before we seek feedback more broadly in the community.

Sincerely,

## Grafton Jacaranda Festival Inc.

Jacaranda City, Grafton NSW Australia



**22 October 2021**

### **Clarence Valley Council**

#### **Re: Feedback on proposed dates for 2022 Race Days, Grafton**

#### **Dear Council,**

Thank you for seeking the views of Grafton Jacaranda Festival Inc. regarding the proposed dates for the ½ day public holidays (1-5pm) accompanying the 2022 Grafton race days as proposed by the Clarence River Jockey Club (CRJC) as follows:

- Ramornie Handicap: Wednesday July 13<sup>th</sup>
- Grafton Cup: Thursday July 14<sup>th</sup>

On behalf of the Grafton Jacaranda Festival Inc. I can confirm that these days are suitable from our perspective and that they make a valuable contribution to the business and civic fabric of Grafton and the Valley more generally.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to be in touch.

Sincerely,

Mark Blackadder,



**Mark Blackadder**

Festival Manager

0429 167 732

manager@jacarandafestival.com

jacarandafestival.com





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Growth • Success • Partnership



20<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

Clarence Valley Council,  
Attent: Bligh Grant

Via email: [bligh.grant@clarence.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bligh.grant@clarence.nsw.gov.au)

Re: Feedback on proposed dates for 2022 Race Days, Grafton

Thank you for seeking the opinion of Maclean Business Chamber regarding public holidays for Grafton race meetings.

We have no objection and consider the date to be appropriate.

Christine Tyler  
President  
Maclean District Business Chamber  
PO Box 273  
MACLEAN NSW 2463  
[president@macleanchamber.com.au](mailto:president@macleanchamber.com.au)   [www.macleanchamber.com.au](http://www.macleanchamber.com.au)



28 October 2021

## **JULY RACING CARNIVAL - HALF DAY HOLIDAYS**

Mr B Grant  
Governance Officer  
Clarence Valley Council  
Locked Bag 23  
GRAFTON NSW 2460

Dear Mr Grant

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information in support of the application to have council gazette half day public holidays for the two main days of the July Racing Carnival.

I can confirm that the dates for the 2022 July Carnival as Ramornie Handicap Day, Wednesday 13 July 2022, and Grafton Cup Day, Thursday 14 July 2022.

As Council is no doubt aware the July Racing Carnival is the "biggest event" that happens in the Clarence Valley each year not only in its direct economic stimulus to Grafton and the Valley but also in its ability to showcase Grafton not only nationally but with the advent of worldwide betting interest internationally to a large audience that view the event on pay television networks and internet providers.

It is fair to say that even through the last two July Racing Carnivals have been heavily impacted by Covid 19 restrictions there has been significant visitor participation in the race days.

The carnival will only remain popular with visitors to the Valley whilst ever it remains a sporting event with "Atmosphere". This can only be achieved whilst ever there is participation from the local community and the reality is this can only occur if the half day holidays remain in place.

Whilst the economic stimulus is obvious to business like Accommodation Houses, Restaurants, Petrol Stations, Supermarkets etc., there is a much greater influence on the valley by way of additional wages paid to part time employees at the race meetings in July. Over the two main days alone there are in the vicinity of 500 casual staff who are employed at the races. The great majority of these casual staff live permanently in the Clarence Valley and the direct benefit to them and its clear flow-on are of great importance. For this reason alone it is imperative that we retain the two half day holidays into the future.

P.O. Box

Prior to 2013 for other business there was a major issue with the cost of wages at penalty rates because of the full Half Day Public Holiday(s) extending into the nighttime hours which was especially felt by the Pubs, Clubs & Restaurants. This issue however is now of much lesser impact on business in the valley due to the shorter holiday rate hours (1pm-5pm). In fact, the single employer with the largest number of staff receiving penalty rates on the half day holidays is most likely the CRJC. In the short term we would be the biggest benefactor if the half day holidays were removed but the long-term negative impact on the Carnival overall would be immeasurable.

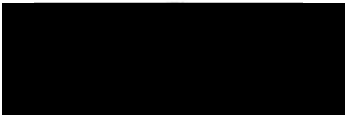
These changes have ensured that race day support industries are now given an opportunity to provide entertainment and visitor facilities, which no doubt has improved the complete Carnival experience for both Clarence Valley residents and visitors alike.

Clearly it has now become much more viable for the local business mentioned above to operate, this has made it more attractive for people to remain in the valley after the races rather than drift away to neighbouring towns such as Coffs Harbour.

I am sure the current half day public holiday time limit 1pm-5pm has had a significant positive impact for the other business in the valley especially those providing food and beverage facilities after the races and I feel a continuation of those restrictions will continue to benefit the valleys business and ensure the long term viability and popularity of the July Racing Carnival.

I would be happy to discuss this matter further and provide any other information if required.

Yours faithfully



Michael Beattie  
Chief Executive Officer  
Clarence River Jockey Club



[Home](#) / [Public holidays proposed for race days 2022](#)

## Public holidays proposed for race days 2022

On display until 26 November 2021, 04:00 PM

We are applying for the two half-day local public holidays in Grafton for the Ramornie Handicap and the Grafton Cup. This is a big step toward guaranteeing the success of the events, providing celebratory days for many in the local community and a financial injection to local businesses, as well as bringing prominence to the City of Grafton nationally and internationally.

Submissions may be made on the proposed holiday dates until 26 November, 4pm

Ramornie Handicap: 1-5pm Wednesday, 13 July; and  
Grafton Cup: 1-5pm Thursday, 14 July.

[Make a submission >](#)

Submissions may also be made writing to the General Manager, Clarence Valley Council, Locked Bag 23, Grafton, NSW 2460, clearly marked "Public holidays proposed for race days 2022".

Two half-day public holidays have already been approved for 2022—for the Maclean Show (Wednesday 4 May, 12-5pm) and for the Jacaranda Festival (Thursday 3 November 1-5pm).

Tagged as:

### Contact details

Bligh Grant  
02 6643 0200  
[bligh.grant@clarence.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bligh.grant@clarence.nsw.gov.au)

