



## IN THE BEGINNING

THE first year Daylight Saving Time was officially used across the country was in 1917 during World War I as a wartime fuel saving measure, but was abandoned the same year in the face of public opposition. The Commonwealth Government applied its wartime powers and reinstated it during World War II for three consecutive summers requiring all states and territories to adopt DST. It was discontinued after the war but a severe drought in Tasmania saw that state implement DST once again in the summer of 1967/68. It was so popular that the Tasmanian Government continued to adopt it. By 1971 all states except Northern Territory and Western Australia ran a trial. After the trial period the southern states, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania continued to change their clocks each October and March. Queensland, Western Australia and Northern Territory chose not to. The last time Queensland experienced daylight saving was for three summers from 1989/90. This trial was followed by a referendum in 1992 to gauge support. It was defeated 54.5% to 45.5%. The State Government abided by this result by not adopting daylight saving. To see if there had been any change in attitude since 1992, the Queensland Government commissioned a company to undertake some research. The results showed an increase in support of daylight saving but this was geographically divided. The majority of residents in the south east supported daylight saving while those outside the region were opposed. It has been suggested that Queensland should be split into two zones but this poses another problem – where to draw the line?

## TIMES ARE CHANGING

"LADIES and gentlemen. Passengers are advised that Queensland is not on Daylight Saving Time. Please turn your watches back one hour."

This example of an in-flight announcement emphasises the fact that it is that time of year when clocks are adjusted in the south eastern states and Queensland once again comes under pressure to join daylight saving to be in sync with the rest. The debate as to whether

Queensland should adopt Daylight Saving Time will again raise its head this summer with those on both sides of the fence putting their arguments forward. Opinions for and against will flood into the newspaper and stories will emerge about the discussion that is sure to arise on the topic. What do you think? Find out what all the fuss is about and have your say.

## THE ARGUMENTS

LIKE any good debate there are always two sides to every story. Listed are some points for and against Daylight Saving Time.

### For

- ▶ Gives people more leisure time after work hours
- ▶ Allows people to complete outdoor household jobs
- ▶ Reduces road accidents
- ▶ Gives families more time to interact with each other
- ▶ Reduces electricity usage/decreases the need for artificial lighting
- ▶ Gives the tourism industry a financial boost as visitors stay out later to enjoy more sightseeing therefore increasing opportunities for tourism related businesses
- ▶ Increases productivity and profit for businesses

### Against

- ▶ Confusion and interruption associated with time change like adjusting schedules and timetables
- ▶ Potential to impact on skin cancer rates
- ▶ Imposition of having to change time pieces twice a year
- ▶ Disruption to the human and animal body clock
- ▶ Adverse impact on rural/farming families, businesses and communities
- ▶ People tend to work longer hours



## AT THE END OF DAY

BACK when the nation was in its prime, they invented a thing called 'standard time', the clocks had been dithering, all of a bother and now they finally agreed with each other.

But such are the ways of human nature, and this was not lost on those men of stature, who decide what we earn and how we spend, that stability is a dangerous trend.

'Seize the day!' they boomed, 'and the daylight, too, rule the sun before it rules you. Time's a commodity to be bought and sold, control the clocks and

you won't grow old.'

Then a battle raged between larks and owls, between north and south and still it howls.

Between colder climes and tropical days, the clocks again move in mysterious ways.

The south does a barn-dance, forward and back, the north does a soft-shoe, slow but not slack.

And, when all's said and done at the end of the day, time merely laughs at what the clocks say.

[www.nodaylightsavingqld.com](http://www.nodaylightsavingqld.com)

Go online and have your say on this topic. Visit your newspaper's website and click on the NiE logo.



## TIME ZONES

THE world is divided into time zones that are equally spaced at 15 degrees of longitude apart. This makes 24 one-hour time zones totalling the full 360 degree circumference of the world. World time is measured in relation to this called Co-ordinated Universal Time. Australia, being such a large continent, has three time zones referred to as Australian Eastern Standard Time, Australian Central Standard Time and Australian Western Standard Time. These time zones were set up by colonial legislatures in the 1890s.

▶ **FACT:** In summer, Australia has six time zones. Find out what they are by visiting us online.

**NEXT WEEK: Zoo Safari**