



TIME ZONES
27 October 2009

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): Labor's rhetoric under Premier Rann tries to convince South Australians that we are doing well and have a place on the world stage. If that rhetoric had any substance, the government would revert to true central standard time for this state. Our state should have a bit of state pride, and a one hour time difference between the Eastern States and Western Australia instead of the current half-hour anomaly. The further extension to daylight saving has brought out more supporters who are asking for the change in a large measure to reduce the disadvantages of the longer daylight saving fiasco.

The Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association is one of the latest in a long line of individuals and groups asking for the change, with some interesting facts on the manipulation of survey results, so that it supposedly supports the extension of daylight saving. The Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association Executive Officer, Diane Laube, wrote to the Minister for Industrial Relations, the Hon. Paul Caica, stating:

After hearing the discussion (on radio), I was most intrigued to see the survey results posted on the SafeWork SA website claiming support for the daylight saving extension. The applied 'doctoring' of the figures provided great mirth at our meetings where members were astounded to see that you had applied a multiplier to the self-initiated vote to conclude that 54 per cent of the state was in favour of the extension.

The raw vote resulted in 1,292 people indicating they were NOT in favour of the extension, and 698 voting for. This was then adjusted according to the proportion of voters in the metropolitan area (74 per cent) so a statistical adjustment applied to arrive at the 54 per cent. Even allowing for this dubious statistical tampering, a slim majority seems to suggest a great deal of dissatisfaction. Indeed, previous figures supporting daylight saving have been claimed to be resounding. No longer does this seem to be the case.

Talkback radio confirmed Ms Laube's comments. She states:

During the April 2009 extension period, a number of talkback sessions were offered in metro Adelaide with my personal experience mostly with AM station 891. Never before have I heard the volume of dissatisfaction from metropolitan callers, with most suggesting inconvenience getting to work...A number of callers also raised the issue of our time zone being skewed a half an hour... suggesting that to revert to our 'solar' time would alleviate some of the issues.

Ms Laube commented on my attempts in 2005 to revert the state to true universal time, which resulted in resounding support for the proposition. Ms Laube states:

...anecdotal suggestions that extended daylight saving period is not well received by metropolitan voters and some adding their voices to call to return us to GMT +9 hours. Everyone is aware that this would lessen the negative impacts of that extended period.

South Australia is the only place in the world where the time line does not go through the geographical area to which it relates. There are three or four other half-hour time zones in the world, but in every instance the time line goes through the geographical region to which it relates. Because South Australia's time line is out of the state, Adelaide is

not put on some world maps. Therefore, South Australia loses out on world recognition as a state and as a place to do business. Computers do not, I understand, compute half-hour time zones, and, according to some in the tourism industry, that results in South Australia being completely ignored as a separate region of Australia.

The half-hour time zone also presents a safety issue for aviation and sea rescue. Some pilots wear two watches so that they are sure of giving the correct time when reporting. Mayday alerts from boats and shipping can be picked up elsewhere in the world and transferred to Australia where the alert may not have been heard, which has happened. When transferring information, the position of the boat in distress can be given incorrectly, because, if using the South Australian time line, it could be put near Tasmania instead of South Australia. This is a critical safety issue for Port Lincoln, which hosts the biggest tonnage of fishing boats in Australia.

The fact that South Australia is on a different time lines in the Eastern States is no impediment to business, contrary to what Mr Vaughan of Business SA tries to put forward, but the half-hour difference is and should be increased to a full hour.

The United States of America has five time zones across an area about the same size as Australia. Not all these zones follow state boundaries; that is, some states have two time zones. It is time South Australia caught up with the rest of the world and changed to true central standard time with, at most, three months of daylight saving. Mr Speaker, I will read a poem entitled 'At the End of the 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!'*

Time expired.

The rest of the poem reads:

*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 barndance, forward and back.
The north does a softshoe, 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.*

(Poem courtesy of **Light of Day** <http://www.nodaylightsavingqld.com>)

**THE STANDARD TIME (EASTERN STANDARD TIME) AMENDMENT BILL
21 April 1994**

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): I reject totally the need for South Australia to change to Eastern Standard Time, 150 degrees east of Greenwich, England. If the Leader of the Opposition is worried about the state of the economy becoming more dominated by the Eastern States, he has only his own Party to blame for lumbering us with a massive debt, which caused Moody's to downgrade our State from a AAA rating, due in part to 'the heavy debt burden resulting from \$3.1 billion bail-out of the State Bank of South Australia'. Any domination will not be due to our being half an hour behind the Eastern States in time. Being half an hour behind the Eastern States has advantages, and not just the lower power costs. Many of the 135 000-plus small businesses in South Australia find that it has other advantages, particularly with stock coming from Eastern States. They are able to complete their stock reports last thing before closing, with orders being faxed to businesses in the Eastern States ready to be dealt with there first thing in the morning before the day gets busy.

These small businesses employ more than 50 per cent of all private sector business employees. They are often overlooked by the Labor Party because they are not unionised and not paying into the Labor Party coffers, but they are definitely workers, often working longer hours than they would wish but finding that the difficulties, risk and expense of employing are now often too great to be worthwhile. The boomerang of Australia's economic development that the Leader of the Opposition mentions is not the key to this issue: small businesses are, and they are also the key to the economic development of the State. It is not small business or ordinary people who want Eastern Standard Time. I have received letters from the Farmers Federation with 6 500 members and the CWA with 6 000 members, along with hundreds of individual letters from all over South Australia, all opposing the move to Eastern Standard Time. Most South Australians want to be independent of the Eastern States and are satisfied with retaining the *status quo*, and we as a Party represent the majority of the people in this State. I urge all members to oppose the Bill, as I believe it is not the wish of the people of South Australia.