

DAYLIGHT SAVING BILL (NO. 2) 2006

Second Reading

Resumed from 14 November.

HON KEN TRAVERS (North Metropolitan) [7.32 pm]: To give members a brief recap, last night I talked about the beautiful sunrise that occurred just after five o'clock yesterday; the issue of whether this is a daylight saving bill, a daylight shifting bill or a daylight robbery bill; the role of the media in the campaign on the issue; the positive aspects of the community engagement; and the need for us to look at better electronic communications to deal with those sorts of things in the future, including providing for e-petitions.

I am sure many of us could tell some very interesting stories of the events that have occurred. Only yesterday, when I was out riding, one of my riding friends, Richie, came over to make sure that I knew that his wife, Sara, was a supporter of daylight saving. I place that on the record so that she knows that he passed the message on to me and had sought me out to do so. One of my other stories was about riding up and down Cottesloe beach early in the morning and seeing Hon Giz Watson arrive exactly one hour after I had arrived at the beach. She went for a swim. I am sure there is a message in there about daylight saving somewhere. I am not sure exactly what it is, but she arrived exactly one hour after I started riding up and down the beach. As we were discussing yesterday and as Hon George Cash argued, for most people, this is very much a personal lifestyle issue. Most arguments from people in this debate have been about individual personal benefits, one way or the other, of daylight saving.

After having worked through the issue in my own head, I realise that it will not make a great deal of difference to my lifestyle. I use the example of bicycle riding. It will probably mean that I will be riding in the dark for a few extra weeks of the year when I go out in the mornings, but if I go for a longer ride on a Saturday I will be riding in a cooler part of the day and getting back an hour earlier, so that it will not be quite as hot. How can those two equations be balanced? I suspect that once the trial has begun I will not even notice the difference. After consideration of that, it then became a question of how I should make a decision on this issue.

Hon Robyn McSweeney: It is much easier to say no.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: That is the problem. For me it became a question, forgetting the personal benefits, of whether there were any public benefits or detriments of daylight saving. After reading Hon Alan Cadby's second reading speech, I see that some of the public benefits he was trying to suggest -

Hon Giz Watson: The second reading speech was given by Hon Peter Collier.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: That is a Freudian slip, if ever there was one!

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: That was before the police investigation!

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Stop it, Lil! I am losing it as it is without the minister going on!

THE PRESIDENT: Order, members! I appreciate the time of day and I understand some members have been up early, but we should address the issue.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: One of the issues Hon Peter Collier put forward, which I suspect he was trying to argue was a public benefit, was that we are now working longer hours than we were 14 years ago and therefore it will assist people to have more time after work in daylight hours. As a Labor member, that suggests to me we should be looking at how to reduce the number of hours that people are working, not adjusting the time, so I do not know that that can be described as a public benefit.

Again, He also talked about the need for some quality outdoor time with our children, which can impact positively on the dynamic family structure. If daylight saving has that impact and improves family structures and relationships, that will be a public benefit and a basis for supporting it. Hon Peter Collier suggested it might reduce our unhealthy reliance on television and computer monitors as our primary sources of entertainment and it would get families out of their lounge rooms and into a more active and healthy lifestyle. Given the level of obesity in our community, it would be a public benefit if greater activity were to occur.

Other members have talked about crime being reduced and the impact on business productivity. Again, this debate should be not just about whether it is easier to make phone calls. Does daylight saving actually increase the productivity and the public good of the state? On that issue, one person said to me that it would be better if daylight saving were not introduced because then businesses from the eastern states would not call after two o'clock. That person saw it as a benefit that businesses in the eastern states could not harass people here. Energy saving is another area in which people, in debates or through e-mails, have suggested that there would be a public benefit. With the current global warming, there is no doubt that energy saving would be a public benefit. Others have argued that we may see an increase in energy use, which would be a public detriment. Equally, water use would increase. An argument about cancer was also raised.

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I would like the mover of the second reading of this bill to answer this aspect in his response because an issue was raised with me via e-mail. I have tried to find the e-mail but, unfortunately, because of the volume of them, I have not been able to do so. Another person mentioned the same matter to me today. In the information and communications technology industry there is some significant concern about the introduction of daylight saving and the impact it will have on a lot of things that are computer generated according to the clock. I am not an ICT person and I do not understand the issue. I wonder whether the mover of this bill has made any inquiries in that regard or has done any investigations and is able to tell us whether those issues can be addressed. Apparently a lot of diaries would be affected, and someone else mentioned prearranged conference calls to the United States. Computer patches need to be developed to allow that to occur. I wonder whether Hon Peter Collier has looked at that issue. I do not understand it. Again, this is an area in which daylight saving could be either a positive or a negative.

The reality is that when I went through all the information, I could not find anything of a quantitative nature that could help me decide whether daylight saving would result in a public benefit or a public detriment. Hon Paul Llewellyn talked about the energy issue. It becomes confusing: will it be a saving or a detriment to us? A matter I have discussed with the Premier was reported in the *Sunday Times*. If this trial goes ahead, we should attempt to look at establishing a serious study to determine whether daylight saving will be beneficial or detrimental to energy use, water use and crime and what impact it will have on people's health. That should be done so that if a trial of daylight saving is conducted, people will be in a better position to understand these issues when they vote in the referendum. I have talked to the Premier about that matter and he has accepted that it is a good idea. I understand that he is considering the government's position on examining those matters if this bill is passed through this place. I suggested to the Premier also that if a trial is conducted, the government should formulate anti-obesity campaigns to determine whether the opportunity can be used to get children to utilise the extra hour of sunlight to their greater advantage. Outside events are often the catalyst for allowing people to lead a healthier lifestyle. Maybe daylight saving could be that catalyst. From the preliminary discussions I have had with the Premier, I believe that he is favourably disposed to those matters.

Members should forget about whether they will personally benefit from daylight saving and consider whether daylight saving will be beneficial or detrimental to the public. Having said that, I am yet to be personally convinced of the merits of daylight saving. Last night I said that daylight saving would not make a great difference to my lifestyle. It does not matter to me whether it is still daylight when we sit in this chamber or attend meetings at 7.30 pm and it is still daylight. I believe that the negative impacts will fall on the elderly and others. There is no need to have daylight saving because if people want to use that hour of sunlight, they can use it in the morning. That position has been put to me by my mother. Both of my parents are strenuously opposed to daylight saving. This debate has pitted me against the views of my mother and father on one side of the debate, who I have a lot of respect for, and the views of my leader. The Premier was opposed to daylight saving; he was not a strong supporter of it. Like me, he exercises early in the morning. However, he told me that this debate is inevitable. If we do not decide the issue tonight, it will not go away. It will return in 12 months, or maybe earlier, and we will have to go through this process again. People will continue to campaign to have the opportunity to conduct a trial of daylight saving and to hold a referendum on the issue after the trial. Those two matters will not go away. The question is: how do we manage it?

If a trial of daylight saving is conducted and a majority of people vote in favour of it at the referendum, I wonder whether in 10 years there will be another campaign and the people who supported daylight saving will allow those who are opposed to it to conduct a trial to not have daylight saving for a time. By then another generation of people will not have had the opportunity to vote on the issue in a referendum. If that is the case, and this referendum is successful, I hope that in 10 years the people who will have a chance to have a say this time around will allow the "no" campaigners to hold another referendum. I suspect that the referendum will not be successful. I have never understood why the supporters of daylight saving want to have a trial of daylight saving followed by a referendum. I would have thought that they would have more chance of winning a referendum without conducting a trial than if a trial were conducted. I suspect that, after the trial has been conducted, it is more likely that the people who currently support it will change their views and oppose it than it is for those who currently oppose it to change their views and support it.

I was then left with the problem of whether I should go with my mother, my leader, or my personal opinion. This debate will inevitably continue. It will not go away.

Hon Helen Morton: Go with your mother!

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: I think you should phone a friend!

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Yes - phone a friend! One thing that helped me was that the other day, when I was talking to the Deputy Premier about other things, he commented that when he gets into a tough situation on internal party matters, he always takes the approach of thinking: if I were the leader and I had the deciding vote,

which way would I go on this matter? He said he would always go according to what would be in the best interests of the party, regardless of what other impacts that might have. I thought the better position would be to consider how the President would deal with an issue in the Parliament; and the answer to that would be that he would progress the matter to the next stage of the debate. Ultimately, I guess the next stage in this debate is to let the people decide. I am not a great fan of the model that has been suggested. I am not a great fan of a three-year trial, as I am sure people have worked out. However, ultimately, this issue will be resolved only when we put it to the people of Western Australia and allow them to have their say on it yet again. I believe that, after this referendum, we should hold a referendum every 10 years so that people can continue to have an input. I will be supporting both the second and third readings of the bill. Even though I have some personal views about what would have been a better model, I do not think we should be messing around with the model at this stage. We need to get on with this. We need to allow the people of Western Australia to make the ultimate decision. The only way we can arrive at a decision is by letting the people have their say by way of a referendum. I will be supporting the bill.

HON BARRY HOUSE (South West) [7.47 pm]: I also wish to make some comments on the Daylight Saving Bill (No. 2) 2006. This time last night I was in the chamber, having returned from South Australia earlier that day, and having effectively gained two and a half hours on my day. If I was a believer in daylight saving, I might have been convinced by the argument that has been put by many members that the time difference between Western Australia and the eastern states creates enormous difficulties with travel. Sure, the fact that Western Australia does not have daylight saving made yesterday a very long day for me. However, it was not enough to convince me of the merits of daylight saving, because I am still opposed to the bill. I am opposed to the bill for five reasons. First, the bill is a waste of precious parliamentary time. Secondly, there is no rationale or logic for the trial that has been proposed. Thirdly, the bill is unnecessary. Fourthly, an estimated 75 per cent of people in my electorate are strongly opposed to daylight saving. Fifthly, the bill is futile, because we will be faced with the same situation down the track, with the same outcome, which will be divisive.

It is difficult not to question, or even resent, the priority and the parliamentary time that is being given to this bill when so much legislation is listed on the notice paper and ministers are saying that their legislation is important and that they must get it through the Parliament this session. Only two weeks remain in this session after this week. There is always a rush of legislation towards the end of a parliamentary year. To give this bill priority over every other piece of legislation is obscene. Government ministers and members collectively in the other place will squeal. They seem to have a bit of difficulty understanding the parliamentary process and that this house is part of the parliamentary process. They seem to be having a bit of difficulty with the fact that members in this place want to express a view, have a right to express a view and, indeed, an obligation to their electors to express a view on this piece of legislation. In this case more than any other, as it is a free vote, we doubly have an obligation to express our view as elected members. To bring this bill on at this stage therefore means that there cannot be a short, sharp debate; that people will not say yes or no and then vote. I am afraid that is not democracy and that is not what will happen.

The government must take responsibility for this because it determines the priority of the agenda and the notice paper. Throughout the entire term of this Labor government, the former Premier Geoff Gallop and the current Premier Alan Carpenter have consistently said, until two weeks ago, that daylight saving was not a priority, that they would not be raising it in any way as a priority and that, therefore, it would not appear on their agenda. For people who are involved in politics it was not much of a surprise, but, hey presto, a couple of weeks ago some ministerial disasters were attracting a fair bit of attention and adverse comment, so the Premier in particular was under an enormous amount of pressure and almost under siege by the media and public. A classical political trick is to look for an escape mechanism and a smokescreen. Of course, we do not forget the performances two weeks ago of former Minister D'Orazio, Sheila McHale and Hon Ljiljana Ravlich. We do not forget Norm Marlborough, whose problems have unfolded since the introduction of the Daylight Saving Bill. Of course, we should not forget the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure and her problems with the budget of the railway. We should not forget Mr Bowler's problems with his dealings with lobbyists. We should not forget Mr McGinty's problems with the health system and his problems that have since surfaced with the finance brokers' resolution. We know the reasons for the Premier's change of mind in putting all this together. He caved in very badly under pressure.

There is no rationale or logic for the way in which this bill has come before the house - none whatsoever. I could have tolerated, I might have understood, and I might even have supported a trial if it was accompanied by some other studies, data collection and some logical, rational approach to sorting out whether daylight saving suits Western Australia or whether it does not. In that way we could have resolved, perhaps for all time, the issue in Western Australia. However, that is not the way it happened, as we know. As other members have mentioned, there will not be any compilation of its effects on business; whether there are advantages or disadvantages; and, if so, what they are. We have not heard anything about impact statements on how it may

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affect children, the elderly, crime statistics, energy consumption and activity levels. Will daylight saving help the state's obesity problem, particularly with young people?

Hon Kim Chance: Surely, these are all matters for government.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Where are they?

Hon Kim Chance: You are confusing this, I think, with the thought that this is a government bill. It is not. The matters you're talking about are matters for government, which may well be done, and were this a government bill, perhaps they would have been included but it is not a government bill.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: This Parliament is debating a bill that is in the government's hands. It is not in my hands as an individual.

Hon Kim Chance: Yes, but you're allowing people to think it is a government bill. It is not a government bill. Remember who introduced it in this place; one of your own members introduced the bill.

THE PRESIDENT: Order, members! The Leader of the House has made his point by way of interjection and Hon Barry House has made his point in reply. I call on Hon Barry House.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I do not have a notice paper with me but I know there are lots of bills listed, some half completed, some not even dealt with, and the government decides - it decides, not us as individuals - whether they are brought on for debate and resolution in this house. It decides the pace at which they are brought on, nobody else. The government cannot get out of its responsibility in that way.

Hon Kim Chance: It is just the construction of the bill I was talking about.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Why has the government given the bill such a high priority? Has it been given a higher priority over a whole list of other items that appear on the notice paper?

Hon Kim Chance: That wasn't the issue you raised; you were talking about the content of the bill.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: It is exactly the issue I am raising.

Hon Kim Chance: The content of the bill is a matter for the author of the bill, not the government.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members! Hon Barry House is addressing the Chair, and the Leader of the House is busy preparing for the next matter.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: If it helps the Leader of the House, I am happy to say that the authors and promoters of this bill should have also ensured that all these pieces of logic and rationale and impact statements were introduced with the bill. There should have been some conditions attached to the trial. The Parliament could then have made a decision that, hopefully, might have resolved the situation rather than it being treated as some gimmick that will last for about three years and then be decided on a show of hands. That is all that is being proposed. It is quite galling that we are required to spend so much time in this chamber debating this bill when there are better things to do.

There are other things that should be analysed during this daylight saving trial - sorry, trial. I got that word wrong because I have been reading too many of those rotten e-mails. We should analyse whether the bill will result in people physically participating in recreational and sporting activities. Let us hope daylight saving increases the membership of tennis clubs, golf clubs, T-ball clubs and netball clubs. Let us hope it increases the number of people using walk trails or cyclepaths. That would be a positive thing.

I saw one of my colleagues from the Greens (WA) on television tonight saying there should be some environmental analysis of the trial. I agree. Analysis of its effect on energy and water consumption should be part and parcel of any trial. None of that is provided for. All we have is a piece of legislation that was cobbled together in an afternoon, at most. I am probably being generous saying that. It was cobbled together by a few people who had proposed different versions, and who decided to toss a coin and go for something in the middle. It is an appalling piece of drafting. We would not tolerate in this house legislation that had been so poorly thought through before it hit the table of the Parliament. We are being asked not only to deal with it now, but also to support it without having any analysis of the provisions. I suspect there has not, and the state will be the poorer for it.

Of course, all this panic, adhocery and knee-jerk stuff has been driven by a media campaign that panicked this government, besieged by its political problems, into saying, "Let's do it, and we will even give our members a free vote." The Leader of the House is the only member on the government side who has indicated that he will not support the legislation. I am not sure whether Hon Ken Travers agreed or disagreed with the bill.

Hon Vincent Catania: When you finish your piece, I can get up and say mine.

Extract from Hansard

[COUNCIL - Wednesday, 15 November 2006]

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Hon BARRY HOUSE: Good move. I hope we hear from members opposite. Unfortunately, it cannot go unsaid that the introduction of the bill was aided and abetted by a few people suffering from irrelevance syndrome and who saw a golden opportunity for another 15 seconds in front of the television cameras.

The second reason that I oppose this bill is that it is unnecessary. It is unnecessary because of the situation of Perth, from where most of the cries for daylight saving seem to emanate simply because most of the people in Western Australia live in Perth. It is unnecessary because of the geographical position of Perth. The geographical position of Perth will ensure that there is no easy answer; I will be very surprised if there are any long-term answers.

Daylight saving, the term we commonly apply to moving the clock forward an hour, is suited to places that have cool climates, with distinct summer periods and long, dark and wet winters. These places are usually located in high latitudes. Perth is caught in the middle in just about every respect; for example, its latitude, climate and aspect on the west coast of a vast continent. That means that we have a Mediterranean climate, which includes long, hot summers.

Daylight saving is not used in tropical climates. As members are aware, Queensland and the Northern Territory steer away from it. The reason is that it does not make any sense to encourage people to be outside at the hottest time of the day, and that is what it is all about. We should be sensible and encourage people to seek shelter at the hottest time of the day, not to be outside exposed to the hottest and most uncomfortable time of the day. Daylight saving shifts the balance.

In terms of longitude, the meridian determining Western Australia's time line runs approximately through Southern Cross. It means that, in a sense, Perth and places on the west coast already have about 16 to 20 minutes built-in daylight saving. It stands to reason that places to the east of this meridian will derive some benefit from daylight saving, but places to the west will not. If we look at a map of Western Australia, there is probably a case to be made for daylight saving in a place like Kununurra, but that is in the hot belt; therefore, there would not be much local support for it. There may be some benefit to be gained from daylight saving in places like Kalgoorlie and Esperance, both of which are east of the meridian that determines the time line. The bulk of the population is to the west and, in a sense, they are the losers. Across the longitudinal breadth of Western Australia there is approximately one hour's sun time difference. Perth is approximately 20 minutes to the west of the meridian that determines its time line. Perth times are always compared with those in Sydney, Melbourne and the rest of the east coast. Sydney and Melbourne's times are to the east of their time meridian, which runs somewhere out around Broken Hill. About 15 minutes is afforded the other way, therefore they get some natural benefit from the daylight saving. The sun, of course, sets in the west. Given that to the west of Sydney is a land mass dominated by the Blue Mountains the sun sets probably five or 10 minutes earlier than it would if it were coastal. In Perth, sunset is exactly the opposite, so another five, 10 or 15 minutes can be added to sunset hours. The sun sets over the ocean, so we get not only the last little bit of the sun before it goes beyond the horizon, but also the reflective effect from the ocean for some time afterwards. In light of all that, the natural time, according to the sun difference between Perth and Sydney, is approximately 40 to 45 minutes, yet here we are talking about saving that extra hour. In a sense, the discrepancy is only about 15 minutes; therefore, what is the problem?

I consider this proposal to be unnecessary because it will provide no clear-cut advantage to Perth or the west coast where most of the state's population live. It is also unnecessary because, after all this, the community will remain very divided on the matter - roughly 50-50 either way. I would be very surprised if it is any other way.

I strongly oppose this daylight saving also because my electorate opposes it. I estimate that the South West Region is roughly 70 per cent opposed to daylight saving, although, of course, some people do support it. As we know, the South West Region is very diverse. The sectors that have major reservations about daylight saving include the farming or agriculture sector, the surfing fraternity, people with young children and the elderly. As we have heard before from the farming community, animals and crops operate by the sun, not the clock. They do not run around with a wristwatch saying that it is time to get into the dairy and get themselves hooked up to a milking machine. People scoff disdainfully at the dairy industry's objections to daylight saving. However, dairy farmers get up in the dark for six months of the year during winter. They tolerate that because it goes with the territory. They look forward to summer because when they get up to start their day's work, it is starting to get light. I do not think it is too much to ask that they be allowed to continue to enjoy that. I could even understand it, or perhaps even find some reasoning for it, if there was a more flexible attitude by the rest of the community towards dairy farming, which I am referring to as an example. Dairy farms set their schedules according to the needs of their animals, which are guided by the sun. However, neither the milk tankers nor the other aspects of the dairy farm do so; they operate by the clock. The milk tankers turn up in the morning at the same time by the clock. They are driven, of course, by the milk processors who must meet delivery schedules. They must work the hours of 9.00 am to 5.00 pm each day, and there is no flexibility in that scenario. I was hoping that Australia might be moving towards a more flexible workplace.

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Hon Kate Doust: How much more flexible do you want it to be?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: The dairy farmers want a bit of flexibility in this regard. If we are to have daylight saving, the kids who go to country schools would enjoy later starting and finishing times. Why can some of that flexibility not be built in? People will start screaming that they cannot ring the central education office in Perth because everyone is at lunch. People cannot win sometimes. Some flexibility needs to be built into the system to overcome these problems. In my estimation - it is one of the major reasons I will not support the legislation - the negative impacts on the people who will be adversely affected by daylight saving will be more serious, on balance, than the positive impacts on the people who will enjoy it.

The surfing fraternity is pretty important around Margaret River. I am told - I do not get down there with a board myself - that the best surfing breaks and the best surfing conditions are in the morning, when the ocean is smooth and there is no, or minimal, breeze or if there is a breeze, it is a land-based breeze. The surfing fraternity loves to get out on the water in the morning. A lot of the surfers are also tradesmen in the building industry. We have heard a lot about the situation for tradesmen in the building industry; there is a shortage of tradesmen. There is a major problem getting skilled and unskilled tradesmen, particularly in the building industry. A common frustration of a lot of builders in places such as Margaret River, Busselton and Dunsborough is that the blokes do not turn up to work if the surf is up; they do not arrive until 11 o'clock in the morning - if they turn up at all. However, if we agree to daylight saving, 11 o'clock in the morning will turn into 12 noon. By then it will be lunchtime, so they will take two hours off for lunch and think, "To hell with it; it's not worth going to work at all." That will hardly increase productivity in the building trade.

Hon Nigel Hallett interjected.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Absolutely. If there were some flexibility, that could be built in.

We have heard a bit about people with young children, but it is a real situation. I have experienced a couple of daylight saving trials, one of which was in the 1970s when I had a young family. We lived in St James in Perth, not on the coast. We did not get the benefit, or the so-called advantage that everybody is spouting about, of daylight saving allowing people to go to the coast after work and enjoy the beach. As a sportsman playing cricket at the time, I specifically remember daylight saving. It had one advantage in that there were excellent conditions for cricket training. I enjoyed only so much cricket training. After a couple of hours, I did not need another hour of sunlight because I was buggered. Excuse me, Mr President; that is unparliamentary. I did not mean to say that. I was very tired. There was not a great deal of benefit from daylight saving because there was enough time for cricket training, and the rest of the time while the sun was still up was sometimes spent very unproductively at the bar. That just meant more difficulties the next day; it was a slow working day the next day. With young children the major problem was that after three months of daylight saving, we had two very tired, ratty kids who had been sleep deprived for one hour each day on a cumulative basis for three months. I assure members that that is a real issue.

In summation, to me daylight saving is all about getting out of bed at the same time by the clock but going to bed an hour later every day. Effectively, that means three months of accumulated one-hour sleep deprivation. Some people may use daylight saving productively by turning to sport, recreation or exercise. Others will stay at work longer - that may be productive for some, but for others it will be destructive. The trade union movement has already complained that Australians live in an increasingly time-poor environment. I do not know how daylight saving will overcome that. It may work for some. However, others may be trapped into staying at work longer, particularly self-employed people. Theoretically, we have moved into a more flexible work regime. However, it remains to be seen whether people will use it productively or whether they will end up burnt out.

In terms of the argument about age, my mother is in an aged care home. Carers are governed by the clock. When I call into my mother's aged care home at 4.30 or five o'clock in the afternoon, it is always somewhat disconcerting to see the old dears being lined up for dinner and put to bed soon after.

Hon Kate Doust: There's a future for you.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Yes, a future I can really look forward to!

The fact is that during daylight saving five o'clock in the afternoon is, effectively, four o'clock by the sun, and it will still be pretty warm at that time. I suspect that many aged people in self-care will lock themselves in their homes if they have airconditioners.

A daylight saving trial will be futile, because it will not prove anything. Rather, it will be divisive and it will set people against one another. As has been demonstrated by the feedback that members have received from a large number of people, people have very passionate views about daylight saving. The issue will always result, roughly, in a 50-50 split. I cannot see how another referendum in three years will resolve the situation. If by

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some stroke of misfortune the second reading is agreed to, I hope the provision for a three-year trial will be amended to a two-year trial.

Some aspects of this debate have been unsavoury. The issue has been driven and promoted by the “me” mentality. This issue is about self-gratification. It is driven by people who are interested in themselves and in their rights; they are not particularly interested in, nor do they have regard for, even as secondary concern, the interests of the wider community. I have met many people in public life. Some of them are the most selfish people I have met; they are interested solely in their own self-gratification.

Hon Vincent Catania: Are you talking about the member for Kalgoorlie?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I am talking generally, not specifically.

They are interested in what is in it for them. They are interested in how they will benefit from a certain issue and they do not give any consideration to the impact that an issue will have on the wider community. I am forced to smile sometimes about some of these people who profess to be the proponents of daylight saving because it will provide great benefits for families. Looking around, a lot of the people I hear making those sorts of statements have never had children. I will be interested to talk to some of them after they have children and are living through a daylight saving period. I think that their views may well be moderated to some extent.

Another unsavoury aspect has been the rather arrogant disdain, even ridicule, of others with different points of view in the debate. I know that this probably works both ways also. However, we consistently hear people mocked with the myths about the cows will not milk, the chooks will not lay, the curtains will fade and so on. That seems to be a standard line from people who just want to knock the issue without due consideration for others' rights.

The orchestrated e-mail campaign has been mentioned by a lot of people. I must admit that I have not counted the e-mails, because, after a while, everything that came up under that standard e-mail heading was deleted. Every now and again I or my office staff would check to see that it was the same message, with the same spelling mistake, without any variation. That, to me, was the most puerile, juvenile, orchestrated campaign that I have come across in my time in public life. I simply wonder what intellectual pygmy thought that an orchestrated campaign like that, full of the same spelling mistakes and the same wording, would really have some impact on busy members of Parliament, rather than people writing individually thought-out letters, phoning members or contacting them personally with a direct approach.

The other point that must be made, and has been made, is that this is certainly not a Liberal Party bill. The Liberal Party conference in the middle of the year passed a motion that very clearly opposed daylight saving. The Liberal Party is, for all its faults, a broad church. In my mind, it is the political movement that embraces the widest spread of the community in Australia. It does not specifically look after sectional interests. One can say that most of the other political movements in Australia are more sectionally oriented than is the Liberal Party. The Liberal Party itself certainly does not support daylight saving, and that position has not been overridden by the Parliamentary Liberal Party. Any involvement of individual Liberals in this case is certainly not representative of the position of the Liberal Party. Let me hasten to add that I fully appreciate and support the right of an individual Liberal to have his or her point of view, as will some members in this chamber, in supporting this legislation. That is his or her right. We have a genuine free vote. I certainly hope that the reality lives up to the Labor Party's rhetoric on a free vote, so that Labor Party members have a genuine free vote, not only on the second reading, but also, if the bill passes the second reading, on any changes that might be made to the legislation after that point.

In summary, in case members had not got my drift, I firmly oppose the legislation. In summary form, to me it is almost an abuse of parliamentary time, when that time is so precious. There is no rationale, logic or well-thought-out analysis of what we are doing with this daylight saving trial. It is simply a knee-jerk response to a series of events that have happened. It is unnecessary, principally because of Western Australia's geographical position. Seventy per cent of my electorate opposes it; therefore I oppose it. It is futile, in the sense that we will go through this exercise for however many years - the bill provides for three, but I hope it is reduced to two - and at the end of that time we will hold a referendum that will produce exactly the same result as we got back in 1992 and the two times before that.

HON VINCENT CATANIA (Mining and Pastoral) [8.25 pm]: I will keep my comments quite brief. I know that members have covered all the pros and cons of daylight saving. I am sure that the public of Western Australia just wants to get it over and done with. We have dedicated a lot of time to it. It is amazing how much interest this debate has created when there are so many other more important issues such as health, education and community safety. I will keep my comments quite brief so that we can get this debate out of the way, vote for or against it, and move on. Hon Norman Moore got it right when he stated in his contribution yesterday that the

Extract from Hansard

[COUNCIL - Wednesday, 15 November 2006]

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Hon Ken Travers; President; Hon Barry House; Mr Vincent Catania; Hon Louise Pratt; Deputy President; Hon Ljiljana Ravlich; Hon Giz Watson; Hon Robyn McSweeney; Hon Ken Baston; Hon Anthony Fels

issues I mentioned are very important but they do not affect every individual in Western Australia, unlike daylight saving, which has an impact on every individual circumstance. That is why we have received so many e-mails, letters and phone calls from our constituents right around Western Australia.

I was interested to hear that members have responded to some of the community interest that this issue has created in generating so many e-mails by calling those e-mails spam that is clogging up the system. I tend to disagree. It is great to see such community involvement on an issue. I wish people would get more involved on other issues that they find important. Even if members have suggested that they are generic e-mails, then so be it; people have taken the time to e-mail because they are quite passionate about this issue. I wish they were as passionate about matters affecting other interested parties, such as the issue we spoke about today, the community development employment projects scheme; how Howard's unfair industrial relations laws will affect working Australians; and how the federal government is taking away the powers of the states. Everyone should be e-mailing our federal counterparts to say that this is unfair, and warning them to watch out at the next election because this is something we care about dearly. I wish that more constituents took an interest in other matters.

Like many other members of this place, my electorate office has been inundated with letters, faxes and personal phone calls, and people have come into the office to voice their opinions. To date I have had 92 letters to my office on the issue, and 85 of those have been in favour of the status quo. Like everyone else, I have received 7 000 e-mails, which have come predominantly from the metropolitan area. Of the e-mails that I could see, probably a dozen or less were from the region I represent.

Hon Norman Moore read out the statistics for the previous referendums in the Mining and Pastoral Region. It is quite consistent throughout the towns in the region. As he quoted, in the last referendum 61 per cent of electors voted no. I concede that in towns such as Kununurra, Wyndham and to some extent Broome there are people who may be changing their views on daylight saving. Members have gone through the arguments for daylight saving in that region. In the Mining and Pastoral Region, which I represent, predominantly the view is a consistent no. Although I was too young to vote in 1992 - I think I was in year 10 at the time - this is not about what I believe should happen. I have been elected to represent my constituents and that is what I will do.

I will not take up any more time. As I have travelled the electorate and spoken to people, received the correspondence and looked at the history of the Mining and Pastoral Region, I have no option but to vote against this legislation as my duty is to represent my constituents. I will do so by voting no.

HON LOUISE PRATT (East Metropolitan) [8.30 pm]: I will be voting in favour of this legislation for a daylight saving trial. At a personal level, I have fond memories of family time spent outside in the evenings playing backyard cricket during the last daylight saving trial, and my family was disappointed when the last trial was voted down. In response to Hon Barry House's remarks, just because I do not have children of my own does not mean I have not spoken to many families. I also have my own childhood experiences from which to make that judgment. Opinions are certainly varied. I have close friends with toddlers who very much support daylight saving and I certainly know of other people who have children who are concerned about getting them to bed at night. That highlights, as has already been acknowledged in many members' speeches, that everyone will have his or her own subjective experience of daylight saving.

Much has been said about the fact that those working in agricultural industries are against its introduction. That is not entirely true; it is not a universal truth. I am the daughter of an orchardist and being able to get up early in the morning when it was still cool and dark meant we were not picking fruit in the heat of the day. It was much better from my family's point of view to be able to start fruit picking at 5.30 am instead of 4.30 am so that we would be picking fruit in the cool of the day. I certainly think that is a common experience for many market gardeners and other people who carry on that kind of work. I have a lot of sympathy for many people in agricultural industries whom daylight saving does not suit. However, as I said, daylight saving is a subjective experience and we will all have different opinions about it.

I have had many representations about the significance of the three-hour time difference with the eastern states and the very real damage that that does to people's capacity to work efficiently. Many people have said that we should just come to work earlier. The simple fact is that people do not. Many people still need to organise their day according to ordinary working hours, and productivity is lost in not being able to reach people in the eastern states because they are out of contact for 40 per cent of the working day. Many of the e-mails we have received contained quite strong and articulate arguments and it has been refreshing to see that they are the same kinds of discussions that we have had in the house in putting both sides of the debate. It is about leisure time in the evening; time with family; useful hours in the evening; the time exchange with the eastern states; hoping that young professionals might return to Perth because they like daylight saving; people who miss daylight saving from when they used to have it; power consumption; that we deserve a trial so we can make up our own minds; and someone who said, "I do not want WA to stand for Wait A While any more." Some who are against it say

Hon Ken Travers; President; Hon Barry House; Mr Vincent Catania; Hon Louise Pratt; Deputy President; Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich; Hon Giz Watson; Hon Robyn McSweeney; Hon Ken Baston; Hon Anthony Fels

that they want to get up early to do their exercise because they are early risers. Other arguments against it are that people will struggle to get their children to bed; they do not like the confusion of changing time zones; that it should be done during the winter when it is needed; and that Western Australia will be out of sync with Asia. These are very common arguments that have been debated in the house. The community has also had the opportunity to listen to those arguments. On that basis, there is no need for me to make a long speech other than to place on record my view that it is time to hold a referendum on the issue. There is no reason why this issue should not be decided democratically after a trial has been conducted. Time is an arbitrary creation of our own making. There is no reason that the matter should not be decided by a vote of the electors.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon George Cash): Order, Hon Simon O'Brien, or you will not be in the house to vote on the bill!

Hon LOUISE PRATT: As I said, our construction of time is arbitrary. There is no reason that the matter should not be decided democratically. It is worth noting, as other members have noted, that Western Australia is in a different position from the eastern states. The entire west coast of the state is involved. Queensland does not have daylight saving. We must take account of the northern interests. It is interesting to note that Hon Vince Catania will vote against daylight saving in the interests of his constituents. The city of Perth is located on the west coast, which changes the alignment and impacts on how much sunlight people experience in the late evening. All these factors will determine how people will experience daylight saving once a trial is commenced. Many members have said that three trials and referendums have been conducted and that they should not be done again. I have had representations on this issue from many people. No-one under the age of 40 has voted more than once, and those under the age of 32 have not voted on the matter at all. They want to have a say on this issue. Compared with 15 years ago, the number of transactions that are conducted with the eastern states on a daily basis has increased dramatically. The difference in the time zones between Western Australia and the eastern states is a considerable inconvenience to many people. Now is the time for us to revisit the issue. I hope to enjoy the daylight saving hours this summer. This matter has weighed heavily on my mind, taking into account the best interests of the state, the representations that have been made to me by my electors, and the debates on the issue. It is high time another trial of daylight saving was conducted and decided by Western Australian electors.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I call on the Minister for Education and Training.

Several members interjected.

HON LJILJANNA RAVLICH (East Metropolitan - Minister for Education and Training) [8.38 pm]: Finally the members opposite are awake. How refreshing!

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I am awake! Most members have been heard in relative silence, and that will not change for those who want to vote on the bill in due course.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I will not make a long contribution to the debate but I will put my views on the record. I will support the Daylight Saving Bill (No. 2) 2006, without amendment. I have been very interested to listen to the contributions of other members. Obviously there is a divergence of opinions among members, depending on their backgrounds, the regions they represent and those with whom they interact. That is probably one of the main reasons that there has been so much interest in the daylight saving debate. People feel that they are connected and can make a contribution and express an opinion on a political issue. That is fantastic. There is no right or wrong on this issue. It is a case of what is best on balance. Obviously, what is best on balance will depend on a range of considerations. Certainly in my electorate there is overwhelming support for daylight saving. My electorate officers report to me that they have received numerous telephone calls and e-mails in support of daylight saving. We should not fear change. Change is good. We have had three referendums on daylight saving. However, that does not mean that we should not ever revisit this matter. That is exactly what we are doing today. If we continue to do what we have always done, we will continue to get the same result. Therefore, we should try to do things differently. This legislation has to be a positive. I spend a lot of time saying to teachers that they should be prepared to have an open mind about things and should not fear change. Therefore, it would be highly hypocritical of me to have a closed mind on this issue. I will, therefore, follow my own advice and recognise that this legislation could be a positive step forward.

Hon Simon O'Brien interjected.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: He is an absolute nuisance, Mr Deputy President! I would kick him out!

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon Ken Travers; President; Hon Barry House; Mr Vincent Catania; Hon Louise Pratt; Deputy President; Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich; Hon Giz Watson; Hon Robyn McSweeney; Hon Ken Baston; Hon Anthony Fels

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: It is interesting to note that 70 countries throughout the world have daylight saving, so Western Australia would not be unique in that regard. Japan and India are the only major industrial countries in the world that do not observe some form of daylight saving. The only conclusion I can draw from that, without any additional information, is that some economic benefits can be gained from daylight saving. We have heard the argument about the economic benefits that can be gained for business by reducing the time difference between Western Australia and the eastern states. However, it has also been argued that we may incur some costs in our trade with Asian countries. Nevertheless, it is important to note that this state is not isolated, and that daylight saving is not unique. Daylight saving in Australia was first introduced during World War I under commonwealth legislation. Due to wartime emergency, that legislation was binding on all the states. During the two world wars, daylight saving time was implemented for the late summers, beginning in both January 1917 and January 1942.

There is a wide range of arguments for and against daylight saving. I do not want to canvass all the arguments. Every person has an opinion on daylight saving, and every person's argument is as valid as every other person's argument. The one thing I have noticed is that young people seem to be more in favour of daylight saving than senior people. I am finding that as I am getting older I am requiring less sleep. Perhaps that is one of the reasons that senior people in the community are not great fans of daylight saving. These days I am waking up at five o'clock in the morning and going to bed at eleven o'clock at night, which means that I am requiring less sleep. I remember when I first became a member of this chamber I used to go to bed at nine o'clock every night and would wake at seven o'clock every morning. I used to wonder what I would do when the house sat late and how I would manage to stay awake beyond nine o'clock at night. However, as we get older we require less sleep.

I believe this is a very positive way forward. I am pleased to have put my views on the record. I think there will be enormous benefits for the environment, the family, lifestyle and health, safety and economics. I have a terrible cough.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon George Cash): It is nearly nine o'clock!

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: Given that it is nearly nine o'clock and given the urgency of the legislation, I have probably said as much as I need to say. My nieces are living with me at the moment and when I come home or in the morning they ask me whether we have passed the legislation for daylight saving. Many people around the state are very keen for this legislation to be passed through this place. I will be very pleased when it occurs. Given the time, I will conclude my comments.

HON GIZ WATSON (North Metropolitan) [8.42 pm]: I do not wish to make extended remarks, but I will put on record a few issues with this bill. This is one of the most extraordinary debates in which I have played any part in this place. The whole development of this bill has been unlike any other. It seems to have gathered some sort of momentum that defies logic. I can only assume that something strange is happening with the planets, because there is no other really good explanation of why we are debating this bill at this time and the nature in which we are doing it. The bill seems to have been dreamt up on the back of an envelope, given some sort of time synchronicity and brought into being to assist a couple of members to regain some public profile.

Hon Graham Giffard: You cynic!

Hon GIZ WATSON: One must be slightly cynical about this. I am not usually a cynical person, as members will understand. There is the question of momentum. Enough people in this and the other place have decided that this bill will get some priority; that it will roll along; that there is some urgency; and that people are hanging on to find out whether it will be voted on tonight or tomorrow. I have never known anything quite like it. Quite frankly, I think the debate is largely contrived for a whole range of reasons. However, having said that, we are having the debate. The Greens are again in a situation of being asked to consider a bill that is not ours. We are usually considering government bills, but this is a private member's bill. We would be delighted if our private members' bills were given the same degree of acceleration and interest.

Hon Graham Giffard: Send 12 000 e-mails!

Hon GIZ WATSON: That could be organised, I believe. As other members have said, at a personal level I do not mind one way or the other. I and many people believe there are pros and cons for daylight saving. My major concern with this bill is that it proposes a trial. I might as well indicate at this time that I will support the bill, because it proposes a trial and it is not as though we are deciding with this bill that Western Australia will have daylight saving forever and a day. I also acknowledge that the last time we had a trial with a referendum was 14 years ago and that a considerable number of people in this state have not had the opportunity to try out daylight saving. However, what worries me is that we are not looking at the issue in any considered way, by which we would have a baseline and then assess the trial on the basis of what daylight saving would do to energy and oil consumption, its social and health impacts and its effects on cancer rates. If we were to have a trial in any sense

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of the word, it would be really useful to assess all those sorts of criteria. My scientific training says that a trial needs something. This is to be a trial without any parameters other than that people can judge it based on their own experiences. It does not tell us what it does on a whole lot of important parameters such as economic, social, environmental and health parameters.

I reiterate the point made by other members that this bill is misnamed. It is not about daylight saving. The concept of daylight saving arose in the Northern Hemisphere, an area with many people in high latitudes. It was introduced to extend the amount of daylight available to them. Our concept of daylight saving is about shifting the clock versus the available daylight. It is not a properly named bill. As other members have pointed out, a lot of members do not know how to spell it on their e-mails. There is certainly no shortage of daylight in summer in WA. The bill is misnamed for that reason.

I will not re-visit the arguments that have been put to me about the advantages and disadvantages of daylight saving. People from both sides of Parliament feel very strongly about it. Those who have strong feelings against introducing a trial of daylight saving have articulated their arguments much more clearly and have gone to much more effort than the people who have argued the yes case. E-mails and phone calls have inundated my office and bored everybody rigid for the past few weeks because, as members of a minor party with the balance of power in this chamber, we are required to do so many other things.

Polling in the North Metropolitan Region shows that 90 per cent of constituents are in favour of daylight saving. For that reason, I feel that I should support the bill. Because the Greens do not have a policy on this matter, because I do not feel strongly about it and because it does not involve any strong principles that we need to consider, I am willing to give it a go. We polled the membership of the Greens, given that we do not have a policy position on this matter. Interestingly, the result was almost 50-50, give or take one or two people. Not surprisingly, more people in the country were opposed to daylight saving. I put on the record that our party has quite strong, divided views on it.

I have some degree of cynicism as to why we are debating this bill at this point. It seems to be convenient for various political agendas. It has become apparent to me, after being lobbied on this issue, that some underlying plot has been driven along, certainly by people within the major parties, although I do not know quite who they are; it is another interesting phenomenon associated with this debate. With those comments, on behalf of the Greens and my constituents in the North Metropolitan Region, I am willing to support the proposed three-year trial and then the issue being put to a referendum.

HON ROBYN McSWEENEY (South West) [8.54 pm]: When the question that the Daylight Saving Bill (No. 2) 2006 be now read a first time was put in this house, Hon Anthony Fels called for a division. Usually the house will agree to the first reading of a bill. When Hon Anthony Fels called for a division, I was of the view that we did not need daylight saving and that was also the view of my electorate. Therefore, I sat on this side of the house with Hon Anthony Fels, Hon Bruce Donaldson, Hon Ken Baston and Hon Helen Morton.

Hon Murray Criddle: I sat on this side too.

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: I omitted Hon Murray Criddle and I apologise. Hon Murray Criddle also sat on this side with the members I named and me, and it was not because we did not like walking to the other side!

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: You objected to it being brought on.

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: We objected to it being brought on - smokescreens and mirrors.

At the last referendum on daylight saving, 75 per cent of my electorate voted against it. Probably 75 to 80 per cent of my electorate are still against it. Only one person from my electorate has said that he wants daylight saving, and I said that I would mention his name in Parliament. I refer to Chris Dagg from Bridgetown. He came from the eastern states and he likes daylight saving.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: What was his name?

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: Chris Dagg, and he likes daylight saving. Nobody else has come forward to tell me that they want daylight saving, apart from the e-mails I received in favour of it. I read the genuine e-mails. I did not read the e-mails that blocked my e-mail system - I deleted them.

People wonder why a group of politicians will make the decision that this state should have daylight saving. Many members have said that the issue will go to a referendum, it is a trial and it is democratic. Bull: is it democratic? It is being brought in; we are being told that we will have daylight saving. It is not democratic. I do not care from where the bill came - a member opposite, a member on this side or a member in the middle. It is not democratic to say that we will have daylight saving and then we will have a trial.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: Are you saying the whole democratic process is undemocratic?

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Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: Sometimes it is.

I am fortunate to have an electorate that is totally against daylight saving. Why do country people and I dislike daylight saving? Farming people do not like the idea of daylight saving. They already get up at four o'clock and work until well after dark. They do not go by the clock; they go by the daylight hours. As far as they are concerned, they do not have and will not get any family time. Daylight saving will make their days longer.

Country children start school at a younger age than they did in 1985. Some little tackers get on the bus at six in the morning, which will be five o'clock in non-daylight saving hours. It makes it a very long day for them. They will come home in the heat of the day. They do not have bus shelters to stand and wait under, and the Minister for Education and Training would realise that. They stand in the direct heat while they wait for the bus; up to 15 minutes in some cases. That is not healthy. The buses have airconditioning, but it is not healthy for the children to stand in the heat in the middle of the day. They should be provided with undercover bus shelters. Country people seem to miss out on bus shelters. These children get on the bus very early in the day.

I do not like the proposition of daylight saving, but I suppose that has something to do with the stage of life that I am at. In 1992 my children were eight, 10, 11 and 12, and it was a nightmare to get them to bed early and get them up for school the next day. I would hate to put young children to bed and get them up the next day during daylight saving. They are grumpy if they do not get enough sleep, and they will not have enough sleep if we have daylight saving. I suppose they would get used to it. Kids adapt better than adults; adults do not like change. Some members know what that is like. Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm said that children learn better early in the morning. Yes, they do, but if they are grumpy after the night before, they will not learn very much.

As Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich said, Britain followed Germany's example and introduced daylight saving in the middle of World War I to aid the war effort. Daylight saving is still popular in Britain. It makes sense to do so given the horrible winters there. Most of the arguments for daylight saving in Western Australia are about more leisure time and the time difference between the east and west of Australia. People who are young and have no commitments will, of course, like daylight saving; it is ideal for them. People whose kids have grown up and have the beach at their backdoor might also like extra leisure time. As Hon Norman Moore asked, where do people who live out the back of beyond go for their leisure? They cannot go to the beach. What advantage is extra leisure time to them? Most blokes would probably head for the nearest watering hole because the weather is hot.

Hon Ray Halligan interjected.

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: Well, well, well. Hon Ray Halligan would also like to go to the watering hole! With regard to businesses and time differences, as has been said many times in this place, China and Asia enjoy the same time line as Western Australia. Besides, business can be done at all hours, so it is a bit of a furphy to say Western Australia's times must come into line with those in the eastern states. Businesses in England and America manage to communicate, despite their time differences. The stock exchange is a good example of how to do business despite time differences. Why must Western Australia's times conform to those in the eastern states? Most employers operate with flexitime these days and we can use it to our advantage if we choose to. In the United States there are differing time zones between states, in some cases of more than three hours. As Tony Rutherford in his article in *The West Australian* said on this issue -

And, in case no one has noticed, we already have, courtesy of geography, a built-in daylight saving in Western Australia: because our time zone is determined by the 120th meridian, a long way east of Perth, we are usually about 15 minutes behind the clock. That, and a few other astronomical factors, in fact gives us next year roughly half an hour of daylight saving in the middle of February, when we least need it.

Bringing on this legislation at this time is a smokescreen to cover up the wrongdoings of the Labor Party. Why are we debating daylight saving when we could be dealing with health services, child protection, education and a raft of other very important legislation? I have been sitting on a local government bill for six or seven months for no reason. I have no idea why it has not been brought on.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: Because you have been sitting on it! Get off it and then we can deal with it!

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: I rephrase that: the minister has been sitting on - I will not say what - and sitting on this bill, and it has not been brought on for debate.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: I thought you were sitting on it.

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Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: It has been on the notice paper for six months. I do not care who has been sitting on it; it should be brought on for debate. As I said, this legislation is a smokescreen and, goodness me, this Labor Party really needs a smokescreen after the antics of last week.

Many people have phoned my electorate office complaining bitterly that this proposal is being imposed on them. I keep saying that because I believe it is being imposed on us without first being put to a referendum.

Another important factor I have been asked to raise by Margot Stretch, the wife of former member Hon Bill Stretch, is the effect that daylight saving will have on our circadian rhythms, which is the 24-hour cycle in the physiological process of living beings. When our circadian rhythm is upset, it puts us out of sorts, so to speak. I do not want my circadian rhythm upset because I do not like being out of sorts.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: I don't believe you have a circadian rhythm.

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: I do. If daylight saving is introduced, members will see a different Hon Robyn McSweeney!

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: It might be an improvement.

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: No. It will not be an improvement; it will be a very grumpy Robyn McSweeney.

According to some arguments, daylight saving will mean that family time takes on a different meaning. Does it mean kids will be sitting in front of play stations for longer periods? I think it does. I think a lot of so-called latchkey children will come home to their no doubt airconditioned houses and, like zombies, sit in front of a screen and play with their PlayStations.

Hon Graham Giffard: What does daylight have to do with that?

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: A lot of people say that we should have leisure time and that children will go outside to play or families will go to the beach. Bullshit they will. They will head home and sit in front of their PlayStations. Leisure time for kids does not mean the same as leisure time for adults.

Hon Bruce Donaldson interjected.

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: I do not think they will be on the computer doing their homework.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members! We are verging on being unparliamentary at this stage.

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: Some people are being unparliamentary, Mr President, but I am not.

Hon Barry House has discussed the issue of people in aged care homes. I look at it from a morning perspective, not the fact that they will be lined up at 5.30 pm for dinner. They will be lined up at six o'clock in the morning for a shower. Some nursing homes shower their elderly residents at six or seven o'clock in the morning.

Hon Helen Morton: They should have their accreditation taken off them.

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: I know of nursing homes that shower their aged people very early in the morning.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: What is wrong with a shower at six o'clock in the morning? I get up at five o'clock in the morning.

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: If the minister were elderly and in bed, would she like to be showered at six o'clock in the morning when it is really five o'clock in the morning?

Hon Graham Giffard interjected.

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: I think there will be problems in these places. I am like Hon Bruce Donaldson; I want three votes against daylight saving.

Hon Graham Giffard: You already have malapportionment in this place. How many votes do you want?

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: I would like three votes to counteract the votes of members opposite who have been leant on by the Premier. Some members said that they would not vote for daylight saving, and, all of a sudden, after the Premier had a little talk to them -

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members! Hon Robyn McSweeney is addressing her comments to the Chair, not to other members.

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY: It is very hard, Mr President, but I thank you for bringing me back into line, when it is the Labor Party that is obviously very unruly at the moment.

Tony Rutherford wrote a very good article, which in part states -

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And the health lobbies might like to look at the demonstrated effect in Canada and the US, by which the brief dislocation of body-clocks caused by the changeover each year causes a one-off jump in road fatalities. (And why, by the way, will the Queensland Government not introduce DST? Is it really because of the skin cancer problem, as Premier Beattie says?)

I am sorry that Hon Vince Catania is away on urgent parliamentary business, because he referred to the federal government taking over the states' powers. I do not agree with that either, but it does not seem to matter whether it is a Labor federal government or a Liberal federal government. In July 1974 the then commonwealth Attorney-General, Lionel Murphy, was asked whether the commonwealth had the constitutional power to introduce daylight saving under federal law. Senator Murphy, a Queen's Counsel who was appointed to the High Court the following year, said that the federal government could override state laws and introduce its own federal daylight saving. Senator Murphy said that section 51 of the Australian Constitution gave the commonwealth Parliament powers to pass laws related to weights and measures. Senator Murphy told the Senate that clearly the fixing of time was a fixing of a measurement. If Senator Murphy was right, a federal daylight saving law would survive a constitutional challenge in the High Court. It does not really matter which party is in power, the federal government seems to want to grab the states' powers.

As I have said, I do not like daylight saving and my electorate does not like daylight saving. On that note, I was very sad to learn that the Premier leant on the Labor members of Parliament who were going to vote against daylight saving. Now the Labor Party has the numbers to introduce daylight saving, and that is a very sad state of affairs for me and my electorate and for the circadian rhythms of people!

HON KEN BASTON (Mining and Pastoral) [9.10 pm]: Daylight saving - what a topic! Having experienced daylight saving trials a couple of times, I cannot stand daylight saving. Hon Kim Chance's arguments were absolutely brilliant. Hon Kim Chance reminded me of the last daylight saving trial. One issue that comes to mind is what daylight saving means for those on the land. Indeed, Hon Murray Criddle alluded to shearers working the sunlight hours. Another issue is children. If we proceed with a daylight saving trial, we should arrange for a pool of children to be leased by those who do not have children so that they can experience what it is like putting children to bed and waking them up during daylight saving.

I will refer to how daylight saving first came about. The second reading speech alluded to the fact that daylight saving was first raised by Benjamin Franklin in 1776. One morning when Benjamin Franklin was walking down the street, he noticed that the curtains in most homes were drawn to keep out the sun. He decided that daylight was being wasted and that power could be conserved by changing the clock. Daylight saving was introduced as a fuel-saving measure in Germany in 1916. The United Kingdom introduced it shortly thereafter in an attempt to save power. As many members have already stated, our lifestyles have changed. When we go home, most of us, particularly those in regional Western Australia, turn on our airconditioners.

Daylight saving was first introduced in 1917. It was reintroduced in 1942 and abandoned in 1944. It was introduced in Tasmania in 1967 following a drought. It was trialled in the eastern states in 1971 and introduced into Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia in 1972. It was trialled in Western Australia between October 1974 and March 1975. In the following referendum it was defeated by a margin of 3.6 per cent. After the trial that was held between October 1983 and March 1984, daylight saving was rejected in another referendum by a margin of 4.35 per cent. It was rejected again in 1992 by 3.14 per cent. I understand that the daylight saving debate reoccurs every 14 or so years, because by the time it comes around again there are many people in the community who have not experienced it or voted on it. One of my sons fits that description. Having lived in Sydney for the past couple of years, he asked me why WA does not have daylight saving. My son is about to get married. He does not have any kids. I look forward to him experiencing a trial if one takes place. I am not sure that I am looking forward to him having kids!

One could say that it is fair to have a trial and a referendum. I do not believe that a trial should last for three summers. Previously, a trial was held over one summer. Some people said that we did not get the result that we wanted and, therefore, we should try another method. That is wrong. If the suggestion were a trial over one summer followed by a referendum, it would be fair enough to give it a go. I certainly do not support the bill in its present form.

In March 1992, Hon Ron Edwards introduced a private member's bill into federal Parliament to define a national system of time zones and daylight saving times for Australia and its external territories. The federal government decided to not support the bill. The setting of time zones and daylight saving times remains the responsibility of the state and territory governments, and rightly so.

When some of the responses are analysed, the reasons for daylight saving seem to revolve around increased leisure time in the evening, more time with the children, trading with the eastern states when we have the three-hour time difference, more people exercising and less energy use. I will work through those one by one. The

Extract from Hansard

[COUNCIL - Wednesday, 15 November 2006]

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first is increased leisure time. As Hon Kim Chance said, we will not actually save any daylight, and daylight saving will not even give us any more time. All we will be doing is moving the clock forward, and we must all be regimented to get up at the usual time in the morning. As Hon Bruce Donaldson said, we will still arrive home at the same time. We will still have to cook that meal; that is, the sirloin steak, or I think he actually wanted a chop. Everything will still progress along those lines.

The social convenience argument is not clear cut. Daylight saving will not benefit all lifestyles. Many people will welcome the cooler mornings to do their exercise. Of course, others prefer to do it at the end of the day. I guess that is what makes daylight saving such a divisive issue, because it is all about me, me, me, and a person's views on what he or she should do and when he or she wants to do it. Of course, many people will hate the longer and warmer evenings. In my electorate, I have received numerous phone calls and e-mails from the areas of Tom Price and Paraburdoo, and I have responded to them. Those people have said, "Thank goodness somebody is listening. We don't need a longer day. We actually wait for the sun to go down so that we can go outside and enjoy the cool evenings." The type of e-mail that I received stated, "For goodness sake, here we are producing the wealth of a nation, yet the city-centric people can't even consider us." I must say that I concur with those people who are living under those adverse conditions. Later in my speech I will provide some of the mean temperatures in those areas.

After-hours barbecues and visits to the beach may occur occasionally. However, most people have forgotten that at two o'clock in the afternoon there is the cyclonic sea breeze, as the eastern staters call it. They do not regard it as a sea breeze; they regard it as a cyclone. The odd day in January is probably very nice in the western suburbs that are alongside the beach. Of course, that scenario will not apply to many towns in Western Australia, certainly not to Marble Bar.

People have said that they will have more time with their children. Children will have to go to bed an hour earlier. I certainly remember that very well. Hon Kim Chance touched on this issue also. I remember that we were getting our children up an hour earlier and then trying to get them to bed an hour earlier, but it was broad daylight. That was difficult, and trying to do that has always stuck in my mind. There is still everything else to do. The children must still be fed and engage in various activities. When my children were small, they did not have the benefit of all the technology that is around today, such as video games, television, computers etc. If it is still light, the children will certainly want to continue with those activities. Therefore, they will end up having a longer day.

It has been said that more people will exercise. Exercise habits are certainly ingrained. I have spoken to cyclists. Hon Ken Travers and I sat next to each other on a plane from Broome. He told me that his parents were dead against daylight saving. He also said he was a cyclist. In the winter it is dark in the mornings when he goes out. The only time he gets some daylight to ride in is during the summer. However, if we have daylight saving, he will be riding in the dark all year. He is not the only cyclist who has come to me and mentioned that issue. Cyclists enjoy exercising in the morning, and during the daylight. Daylight saving is certainly not the magic bullet, but there are other leisure activities. My youngest son is a rower at one of the schools. I was at a regatta at Guildford the other day. Several rowing coaches bailed me up and told me that these kids hit the water with their boats at 5.15 in the morning. That fits in with their daily school timetable. If daylight saving comes in, it will mean that those boats will have to hit the water at 4.15 in the morning, according to sun time. It will be pitch black, and rowing boats have not been known to have lights on the front of them. It had not really dawned on me until these coaches bailed me up and asked what I was doing about this. The rowing coaches said that I would surely not bring this in, and they asked me if I realised what time these kids would hit the water. I took a couple of steps backwards. Other rowers also explained it to me. There are the cyclists and the rowers, but other people have different views. I am not a surfer, but Hon Barry House has told me that the waves are better in the morning. I thought they might have been whipped up in the afternoon.

Hon Paul Llewellyn: They are much better in the morning, when the winds are offshore.

Hon KEN BASTON: That is a nice call.

Let us go back to the argument that less energy will be used. No real evidence has been produced that any fuel will be saved. As I mentioned, daylight saving, particularly in regional areas, will mean only that the airconditioners will be turned on earlier. Kids will be back from school at two o'clock in the afternoon, and they will be right into the airconditioning. It is interesting to take a town such as Broome, where my office and that of Hon Shelley Archer are located. Residents of Broome want daylight saving in the winter, but they do not want it in the summer. Until a couple of months ago there was no way the staff in my office could watch the sun set at Cable Beach because they had not finished working. The sun was gone by that time. They would have liked daylight saving in the winter. Someone else came to me and said that he would like daylight saving all

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year because it suited him to have it all year. Since we had power blackouts the summer before last, I question whether Synergy energy, formerly Western Power, will be able to cope.

With the communications systems we have today, including e-mails and Internet technology, does one hour really make much difference in communications with the eastern states? I do not believe it does. We are trading all over the world. I was in Kalgoorlie a couple of weekends ago, and I was talking to an accountant there. He said that he did not support daylight saving. He said that he had dealings all over the world all the time. He did not think daylight saving was necessary. He did not like it. Another miner said that he did not support daylight saving. When I asked him why, he said it was because he was underground all day. He said it was dark when he went in and dark when he came out. He did not want it. Tonight, I was representing our leader at a function for North West Shelf gas. It was interesting to talk to the various people there. They all asked what was happening with and at what stage we were at with daylight saving. I said that there were more important things to discuss in the house than daylight saving, but since they were all interested, I asked what their feelings on the issue were. For every one who was for daylight saving there was another who was against it. I left them all talking with each other and came back to the house because I thought it was probably a lot safer.

Hon Kim Chance: You probably started World War III!

Hon KEN BASTON: It is quite amazing how divisive daylight saving is. That brings me back to a point I made a while ago: why stretch it out to a three-year trial? That is totally unfair. If people are so evenly divided, 50-50, why not do the same as we did before? It is because the ones who missed out then are now saying that they want to try something different to see if they can get daylight saving through. The fairest way is to do it only once.

Hon Ray Halligan: You would not want it your way all the time, would you?

Hon KEN BASTON: That is fine. I suppose we will do it again in 14 years and have another three-year trial and go the other way.

The time frame with the eastern states was also mentioned, but most of our trading now is done with countries to our north. It is worth noting that China has only one time zone for a huge nation, and that time zone is the same as Western Australia's. If we move our clocks forward an hour, it would put us in line with Japan and Korea.

Hon Ray Halligan: Our major trading partners.

Hon KEN BASTON: One of our major trading partners, but not as big a trading bloc as China, Taiwan and Indonesia. The figures for those two groups are \$2.1 billion and \$2.4 billion respectively. Daylight saving would also put us ahead of Thailand and Vietnam. The countries in the same time zone as WA are China, the Philippines, Indonesia, Hong Kong and Taiwan. I do not have figures for the other countries. It was interesting to find last year when I was doing a tour of WesTrac Pty Ltd, a major company that services the resources industry, that all its major parts come from Singapore, not from the eastern states. I think we are seeing a trend as a result of which our trade with neighbours such as China gives us an advantage over our eastern states counterparts.

Hon Ray Halligan: It has nothing to do with quality of the product - only time?

Hon KEN BASTON: Purely time - that is what we are talking about.

I mentioned some of the towns and temperatures in my electorate of Mining and Pastoral Region. Hon Norman Moore and Hon Vince Catania alluded to the fact that the referendums in 1975, 1983 and 1992 all returned a fairly convincing no from those areas. One of the reasons for that can be found in the January temperatures. This is historical data for January from the Bureau of Meteorology. Perth commenced recording that data in 1876 and Marble Bar began recording its data in 1895. Perth has a daily mean temperature in January of 29.7 degrees, and it has six days over 35 degrees. Newman has a daily mean temperature of 39 degrees and 27 days over 35 degrees. Paraburdoo has a mean temperature of 40.8 degrees and 28 days over 35 degrees. Port Hedland is a little cooler, 36.3 degrees, and it has 19 days over 35 degrees.

Hon Graham Giffard: Nice and warm.

Hon KEN BASTON: Yes, very warm.

Hon Ray Halligan: And changing the clock is going to alter the temperature?

Hon KEN BASTON: No, but the kids are knocking off at two o'clock sun time.

Hon Peter Collier: They knock off at two o'clock now.

Hon KEN BASTON: There are 12 hours of daylight in the north, so why do they need any more daylight?

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Hon Ray Halligan: They are not getting any more daylight. That is the whole point: there is no more daylight.

Hon KEN BASTON: A member touched on the matter of road accidents. Hon Robyn McSweeney raised an interesting point about circadian rhythms that led my staff to delve into some scientific facts on the ABC web site. Some research was done on this matter in Canada. I must add that Hon Paul Llewellyn made a valid point that if we are to trial daylight saving, it must be evaluated. We must work out what it is costing us in water use and power use etc. Dr Stanley Coren from the University of British Columbia in Canada conducted a trial using transport statistics for 1991 and 1992. The study examined the number of accidents that occurred on the Monday before the changeover from standard time to daylight saving and the number of accidents that occurred on the following Monday. It found that when Canada changed to daylight saving in the springtime, there was an eight per cent increase in the risk of accidents on the Monday after the changeover. When people had one hour's extra sleep when they changed from daylight saving back into standard time, there was an eight per cent chance of fewer traffic accidents. That study was based on circadian rhythms, which Hon Robyn McSweeney alluded to. That was caused by people who were permanently sleep deprived and were never awake. That was an interesting bit of trivia.

I refer to an article in *The West Australian*, which is the very reputable newspaper in this state, written by Tony Rutherford and printed on 1 November headed "Daylight saving debate - a real waste of time", which states -

There is something deeply arrogant about the repetition of a trial and a referendum process.

It is one of those unsatisfying debates: Not least because it is not really a debate at all - there's a remarkable reluctance to listen to other points of view, let alone conduct a reasonable exchange.

Everyone has an opinion on this matter. People are quite selfish in their view about whether they want daylight saving.

Hon Graham Giffard: Speak for yourself.

Hon KEN BASTON: I have said that I considered the views of my electorate. The article also states -

The leisure time argument, now enthusiastically being plugged by various health lobbies, is just as shaky. Come February, there aren't too many people out there pounding the pavements; most sensible people (like the Premier) get their exercising done in the morning.

And, in case no one has noticed, we already have, courtesy of geography, a built-in daylight saving in Western Australia . . .

It is interesting to have this debate. I find it quite amazing that the Daylight Saving Bill (No.2) 2006 is number one on the government's agenda. I found it even more amazing when my office received a large number of e-mails. I told my staff to respond to some of them because I wanted to know the views of the people who wrote them. All the e-mails were the same and said that they supported daylight saving. The first reply we selected at random stated that the person finds that the sunrise a little after 5.00 am is too bright in his room. These e-mails are dinkum. Another person wrote that all his family live in South Australia and that he has close friends interstate but that by the time he gets home from work in the summer, his friends and family from interstate are on their way to bed and it is too late to phone them. Another e-mail said that the person was sick to death of his cats waking him up at 5.00 am because the birds go nuts outside his bedroom and demand breakfast because of the daylight. He writes, "For goodness sake, I need the extra hour's sleep in the morning. If it isn't the damn birds waking me up, it's the damn cats." Another person wrote that he appreciates the view that daylight saving may differ to someone who lives in the metropolitan area, as he does. However, he writes that the majority of Western Australians reside in the metropolitan area. I was amazed at the responses. Another e-mail said that eastern-centric television broadcasting is already three hours old by the time we are privileged to view it "live".

Daylight saving has an impact on everyone. People's views on daylight saving depend on where they live, their age group, and their occupation. That is what makes this issue so divisive. I personally believe that we should be assessing the trial. However, I believe also that a three-year trial, followed by a referendum, is too long. Therefore, I will not be supporting the bill in its present form.

I must admit that when it was first reported in the press that I was supporting daylight saving, it was after a reporter had phoned and asked me whether I supported a trial period of daylight saving, and I actually said that I supported a trial, but I did not support daylight saving personally.

Hon Ken Travers: Who leaned on you? Who pressured you? Tell me now!

Hon KEN BASTON: Many people pressured me! Many people sent me e-mails! I will tell members what happened. I got an e-mail from one of my old constituents in Carnarvon, who said, "What have you been eating?"

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There must be too much barramundi in the north! It has obviously clouded your judgment!" I certainly would never support daylight saving personally.

Hon Ken Travers: Was it the barramundi that clouded your judgment?

Hon KEN BASTON: I was trying to save Hon Ken Travers the trouble of having to cycle in the dark all year round! I was trying to give him this beautiful time frame during the summer in which to cycle! I have been sticking up for Hon Ken Travers, even though I will be voting the other way! I certainly do not support this bill. I am pleased that some members on the other side of the house do not support daylight saving. I am sorry that some members on this side take the opposite view. Daylight saving is a very divisive issue. The majority of the people in the electorate that I represent do not support daylight saving.

HON ANTHONY FELS (Agricultural) [9.38 pm]: I wish to add my comments to this drawn-out debate on the Daylight Saving Bill (No. 2) 2006. I wish we were not having this debate. I have done my best to avoid wasting so much time in continuing this debate, but there are still a number of issues that have not been raised - Several members interjected.

Hon ANTHONY FELS: Some ministers might not be happy that we are continuing to debate this issue in this house when there is so much other legislation that I am sure they would like to put through the house before the end of the year. I do not believe this bill is supported by the constituents in the area that I represent. I represent the Agricultural Region of Western Australia, which takes in virtually the entire wheatbelt, from the town of Esperance, to Geraldton and Kalbarri in the north.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Members should read *Hansard* tomorrow to see whether any new material has been introduced.

Hon ANTHONY FELS: I assure you, Mr President, that some new material will be introduced during my speech.

The anger that many people feel about this legislation has been demonstrated by the large number of calls that have been made to my office from people who are opposed to daylight saving. In fact, I have not received one call from any person in my electorate who supports daylight saving. I have phoned some friends who live in Perth to get their views. I must say that they are also divided on this issue.

Members and other people have been very quick to ridicule farmers in this debate. The question is much bigger than how daylight saving would affect farmers. Of course, daylight saving would affect farmers, crayfishermen, transport operators and people in the mining industry who do not have the luxury of being able to go to the beach after work or knock off at a particular time of the day. Country people run businesses more by the sun than by the clock. I will give an example that I experienced while growing up on a farm. When harvesting crops in the summertime and a harvester breaks down, a farmer needs to get parts in town or, more often, ring around Perth to track down parts or equipment that he needs. It is very frustrating if it is that time of the day when businesses have closed in Perth. If a farmer is lucky enough to track down what he wants, he might miss the freight pickup deadline, because many of the courier transporters to the country do not work by the clock but more by the sun. They load trucks while they have sunlight and they leave as soon as it is dark when it is cooler, because it is cheaper to run vehicles on the road at that time. Of course, with daylight saving, they will arrive at country depots an hour later the next day. When a farmer is rushing to the depot in the morning to pick up what he needs for a header, or veterinary supplies for livestock or feed, he will have to wait for another hour for the truck to arrive and be unloaded. That will be very annoying. A similar case will apply to crayfishermen. The rock lobster industry in Geraldton is one of the biggest industries in the Agricultural Region. It operates at the moment under a pot licence system, so crayfishermen need to recover as many crays as they can because of the limited number of pots they have. If their boat suffers a major breakdown in the middle of the crayfishing season, the boat needs to be urgently repaired and to be back operating.

The other question is how this referendum will be resolved, when the state has had three referendums in the past that have all been responded to in the negative, largely because of the strong anti daylight saving vote from the country. Of course, times have changed. The country has probably half the number of farmers that it had 15 years ago, and certainly half the dairy farmers that it had only five or six years ago, as a result of deregulation of the dairy industry. The country has probably less than half the number of egg producers that it once had. The same applies to other country industries because of changing times in farming. Supporters of daylight saving make much of the need for farmers and others to adjust to the world of business, without real regard for the need for flexible business hours to accommodate farmers and businesspeople whose practices cannot be changed with the clock. Much has been made of the issue of an extra hour of quality time with family and friends after work

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as a result of daylight saving. I am sure that the majority of busy mothers would disagree with that argument. I know that my mother always disagreed with it. I remember at least two referendums as a child.

Hon Ken Travers: We should always listen to our mothers.

Hon ANTHONY FELS: I agree. Those mothers who have already been subjected to daylight saving trials will remember the difficulties they had with children. Those people who glibly talk about the slight period of adjustment and then everything being fine are very naive. People who do not live near the beach with regular exposure to cooling sea breezes will have to bear a daylight saving trial. Relief from the extremes of heat in Western Australia comes with the setting of the sun. Perth has its hottest evenings in February and March, which would be towards the end of the daylight saving period. People get cooler as they go through the night. It will be an hour later before they get to sleep when there are heatwaves, unless of course they have a very good airconditioning system that is cranked up all night, but those people who leave it on all night wake up freezing. Last night, for example, the airconditioning was not on in this chamber. I am very thankful that we do not have daylight saving already because we would have had an extra hour of heat before we got home last night.

Daylight saving is almost universally hated by those living in rural areas, not because they misunderstand the benefits but because daylight saving provides them with no real benefits and it makes their lives more difficult. They are the ones who suffer. It is easy to laugh about the fried kids on the school buses when they are not our kids. Many city parents would not be aware of the temperatures experienced by kids when they travel home on the bus at night and when they get home to their farming properties in country or city areas. Quite often, they have a long walk home.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to sessional orders.