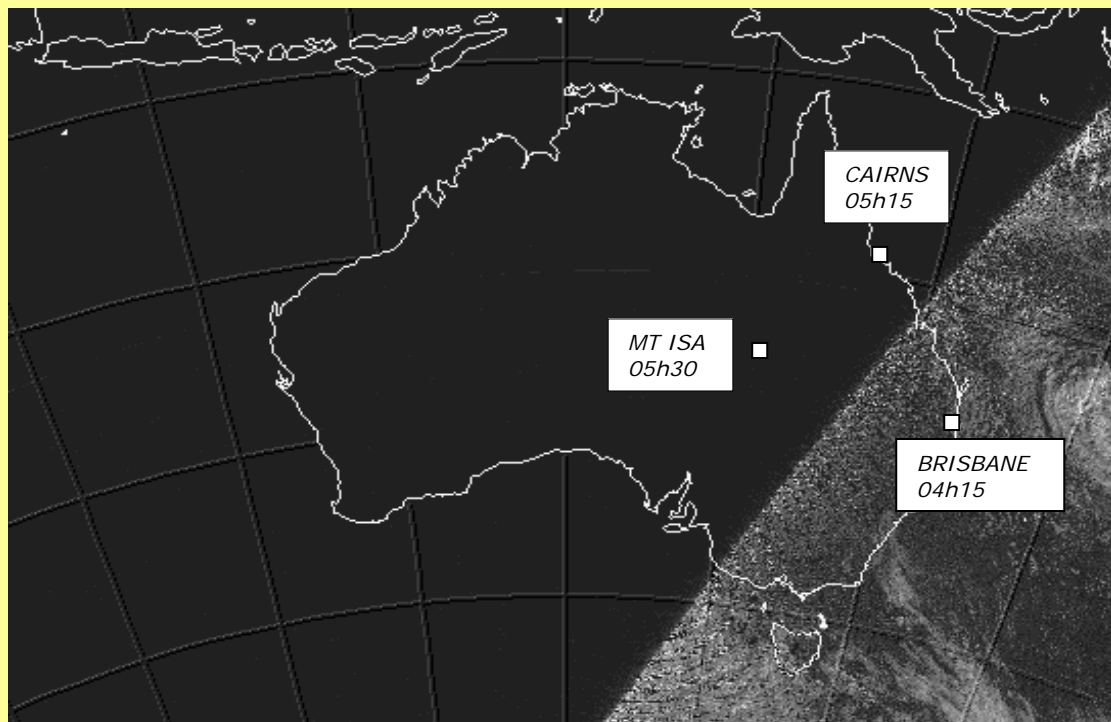


REGIONAL DAYLIGHT SAVING IN QUEENSLAND:

***WHAT THE POLITICIANS
DO NOT WANT
QUEENSLANDERS
TO KNOW***



Satellite image of Australia on 8 December 2006 at 05h15.

Morning twilight is 60 minutes earlier in Brisbane than Cairns.

Morning twilight is 75 minutes earlier in Brisbane than Mount Isa.

THE PROBLEM: LACK OF INFORMATION

"Unfortunately many people in Queensland may be unaware of or apprehensive of regional daylight saving especially if the boundaries and mechanism for its implementation have not been defined"

Queensland resident - letter to Peter Beattie and Anna Bligh, 18 August 2007

THE CONFIRMATION: LACK OF INFORMATION

QUESTION 28 (of the Government survey):

Recent news articles have talked about the idea of introducing daylight saving to a part of Queensland only - had you ever heard about this idea before today?

RESULT:

1 out of 3 Queenslanders aged under 35 (and 1 out of 4 Queenslanders overall) had never heard about the idea.

KEY FINDINGS:

"A significant proportion of Queenslanders concede that they have no idea what the boundaries of the region would be"

"There is a general lack of understanding by Queenslanders of the reasons for introducing two time zones"

From: Government commissioned AC Nielsen research report into daylight saving in Queensland (pages 14 and 100), 1 October 2007

THE RESULT OF LACK OF INFORMATION

"While residents of SEQ are overwhelmingly supportive (70% v 20%) of the introduction of daylight saving, the same residents have indicated they do not support (45% v 41%) the introduction of split time zones."

Premier Anna Bligh, 1 October 2007

"RECENT NEWS ARTICLES ..."

"I am not convinced and I haven't seen any evidence that regional daylight saving could be workable"

Deputy Premier Anna Bligh, Courier Mail 2 November 2006

"The National Party does not support introducing daylight saving in any form including splitting Queensland into two time zones"

Jeff Seeney, Courier Mail 14 August 2006

"I am not enthusiastic about this. I don't want anybody going out of here saying that I support regional daylight saving, because I am far from that position"

Premier Peter Beattie, Courier Mail **28 June 2007**

"Peter Beattie's plan to bring in a "daylight savings divide" is just madness"

David Gibson, National Party MP for Gympie ABC News **29 June 2007**

"Any suggestion of a split time zone in Queensland I think is quite ridiculous"

Federal Liberal MP for Groome Ian McFarlane with one eye on the Federal election, ABC News **27 June 2007**

"Time zones with winding lines through regional Queensland would not be clearly marked and would cause nothing but confusion."

Federal National MP for Wide Bay Warren Truss also with one eye on the Federal election, Media release **29 June 2007**

"Regional daylight saving would create all sorts of problems for residents and businesses"

Cooloola Mayor Mick Vernados, ABC News **29 June 2007**

"(nothing)..... "

Bruce Flegg and the seven Liberal MPs despite regional daylight saving being Liberal Party policy

"(nothing)..... "

Information from the Government regarding regional daylight saving (in contrast to the plethora of arguments supporting council amalgamations and the Traveston dam)

How did the Government expect Queenslanders to support regional daylight saving if almost half of them did not know about it or understand it?

They did not!!

"BLIGH - REGIONAL DAYLIGHT SAVING UNWORKABLE"

Headline - Courier Mail 2 November 2006

In October 2007 the Bligh government released its research into daylight saving in Queensland.

The research concluded (page 14) that "**there is a general lack of understanding by Queenslanders of the reasons for introducing two time zones regardless of their attitude to DST in principle**".

The lack of support for regional daylight saving was due to two things: -

- **1 out of 4 surveyed had never heard of the concept of regional daylight saving before the survey.** Most of the others would have been unaware that split time zones are commonly used in North America with none of the problems of alienation, confusion and divisiveness that those surveyed quoted as the main reason for rejecting regional daylight saving.
- **All of the media reports prior to the survey reflected extremely negative views on regional daylight saving. Bruce Flegg and his Liberal MPs did not once publicly support regional daylight saving.** It is likely that those who had heard of the concept would have been aware of a very broadly based bias against the concept.

It is therefore remarkable the survey showed only 45% in SEQ opposed regional daylight saving while 41% supported regional daylight saving. It is not surprising that 14% were undecided.

The Government was happy to allow the unsubstantiated political rhetoric of the alienation, confusion and divisiveness that regional daylight saving would cause to continue **and made no effort to provide Queenslanders with any objective information regarding regional daylight saving.** The political rhetoric spiked in late June following the announcement that the research would be conducted in July.

Anna Bligh, like Peter Beattie, is strongly opposed to regional daylight saving. It was therefore convenient to conclude, on the basis of brief telephone interviews with 600 poorly informed and unwittingly prejudiced residents of southeast Queensland, that there was not enough support for regional daylight saving.

The research also concluded (page 14) that "**regardless of which option is pursued it will be imperative to educate residents on the debate, logic and decision process**".

The Premier obliged by briefly informing Queenslanders that she would listen to the minority in Queensland who oppose daylight saving and that she would not be returning to the matter of daylight saving again.

Premier Bligh obviously felt that Queenslanders had already been educated on the debate, logic and decision process in November 2006.

"There will be no daylight saving in Queensland as long as I am Premier" Premier Anna Bligh to enthusiastic applause from an initially adversarial audience in Cloncurry, Western Queensland on 4 November 2007.

TWO TIME ZONES IN OTHER REGIONS

Twelve of the larger states in the USA ranging from Florida to Oregon have two time zones (Figure 2).

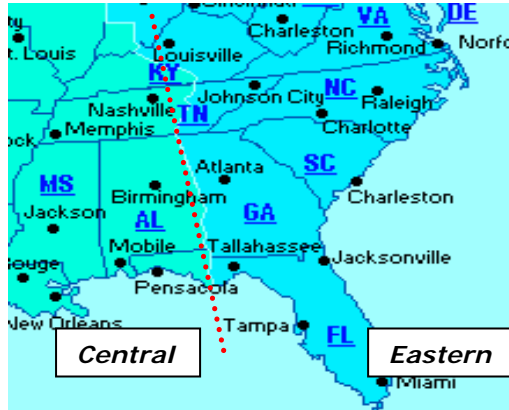


Figure 2: The whole of **Tennessee (TN)** and **Kentucky (KY)** are not suited to either the Eastern or Central time zones and therefore utilize the two time zones almost equally. The **Florida (FL)** panhandle in the northwest (largest city Pensacola) is better suited to the Central time zone rather than the Eastern time zone utilized by the rest of the state (including the capital Tallahassee).

Five of the ten provinces of Canada utilize two time zones (Figure 3 and 4).



Figure 3: The southeastern corner of **British Columbia** is in the same time zone as Alberta (Mountain time zone) rather than the Pacific time zone like the rest of British Columbia

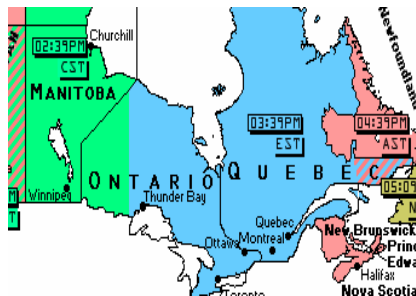
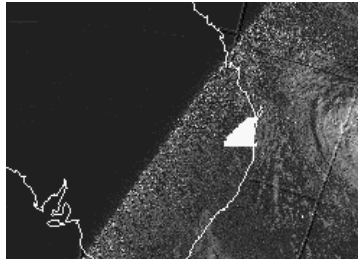


Figure 4: **Quebec** utilizes the Atlantic and Eastern time zones while **Ontario** utilizes the Eastern and Central time zones

A **Google** search (two time zones + name of state/province + controversy / debate / argument) could not find one reference to any controversy with regard to two time zones in one state. Indeed, in one article about Indiana the authors remark **that in the USA there seems to be a remarkable lack of controversy with regard to two time zones in one state.**

On the other hand state wide daylight saving is divisive and controversial around the world. This is due to the fact that the western part of a region already has a moderate daylight saving effect and an additional hour of daylight saving is not necessary and is opposed by the residents in that region.

REGIONAL DAYLIGHT SAVING IN QUEENSLAND



The dividing line should run parallel to the line of sunrise in SEQ during summer.

The dividing line should then be drawn through a **sparsely populated region so that as few people as possible have to physically cross the line on a regular basis**. The only controversy with regional time zones involves residents who live immediately adjacent to the dividing line. In a region as large as Queensland this could easily be avoided



This dividing line is probably the most suitable based on the results of the 2007 survey. **If the line was moved northwest of Rockhampton and Roma**, it would pass through an even more sparsely populated region

"QUOTES"

"Regional daylight saving would create all sorts of problems for residents and businesses"

Cooloola Mayor Mick Vernados, ABC News 29 June 2007

"The Great Time Zone Controversy is fizzling out the way many people predicted"

Editorial, Fort Wayne News, Indiana, August 2001

"The last time that the Department of Transportation changed a time zone line was in 2003, when three South Dakota counties were moved from the Mountain zone to the Central zone. The change was so lacking in controversy that no hearings were held"

US Department of Transportation spokesperson, September 2006

"I am unaware of any controversy in Idaho surrounding time zones".

Mike Maller, Idaho Department of Transportation spokesperson, October 2005

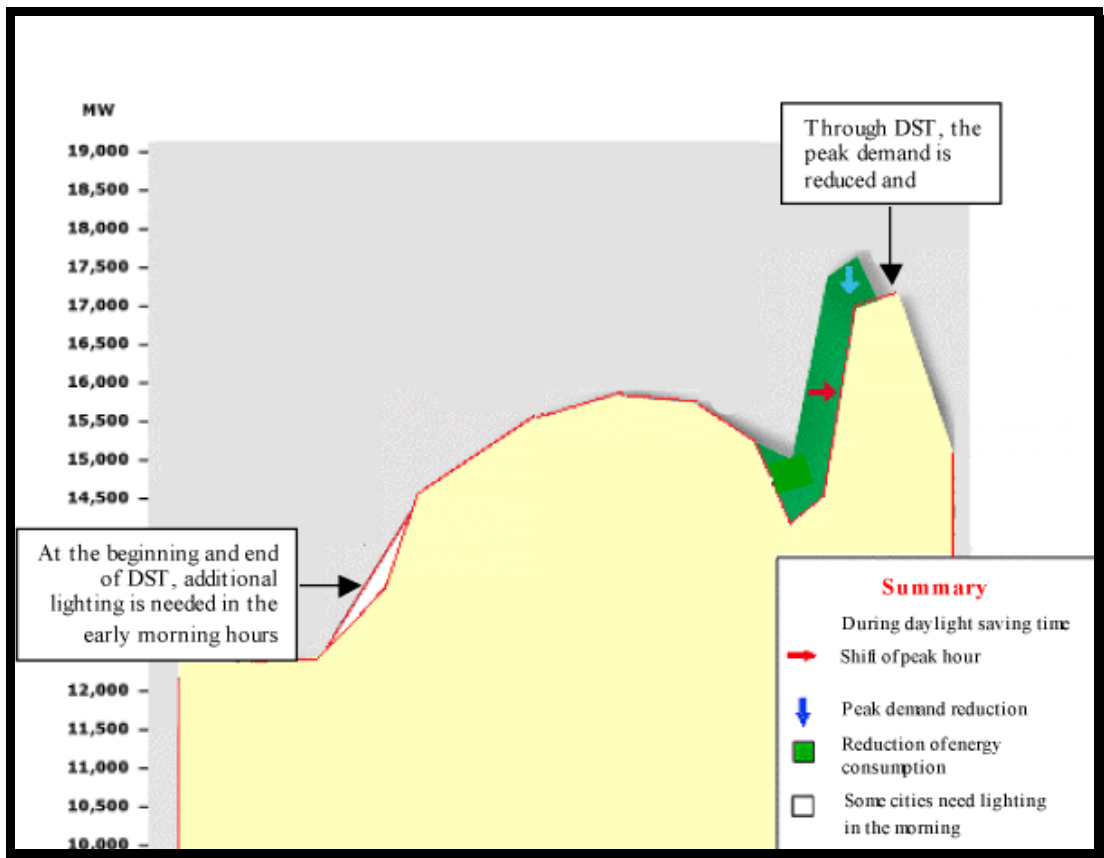
NOTE: In the USA the Department of Transportation is responsible for determining time zone boundaries. Local government can apply to the Department if they wish to change their time zone.

DAYLIGHT SAVING AND ENERGY IN SEQ

Studies from **California** (2001), **Mexico** (2003) and **South Africa** (2006) show that daylight saving in summer at similar latitudes to SEQ saves energy.

SEQ with its eastern location is better suited to and will derive more energy benefit from daylight saving than any other region of Australia.

This graph shows **Mexican electricity consumption** showing use of electricity before and after daylight saving was introduced.



NOTE:

- Total consumption is reduced
- **More important, the peak demand is reduced.** This decreases the chances of black outs and reduces the need for extra capacity requirements.
- A very small increase in morning consumption. The sun actually rises quite late in Mexico compared to SEQ and this small increase is unlikely to occur in SEQ. It would probably occur in Western QLD if daylight saving was introduced there.

Studies from **Victoria** (2007) and **California** (2007) show that daylight saving in winter makes no difference. This is to be expected as there is no underutilized light in the morning to be saved for use later in the day.

DAYLIGHT SAVING AND ROAD SAFETY IN SEQ

Road safety in Queensland has become a major issue. There are numerous studies from 1995 to 2007 that show that extra light in the early evening **significantly decreases vehicle occupant and especially pedestrian fatalities.**

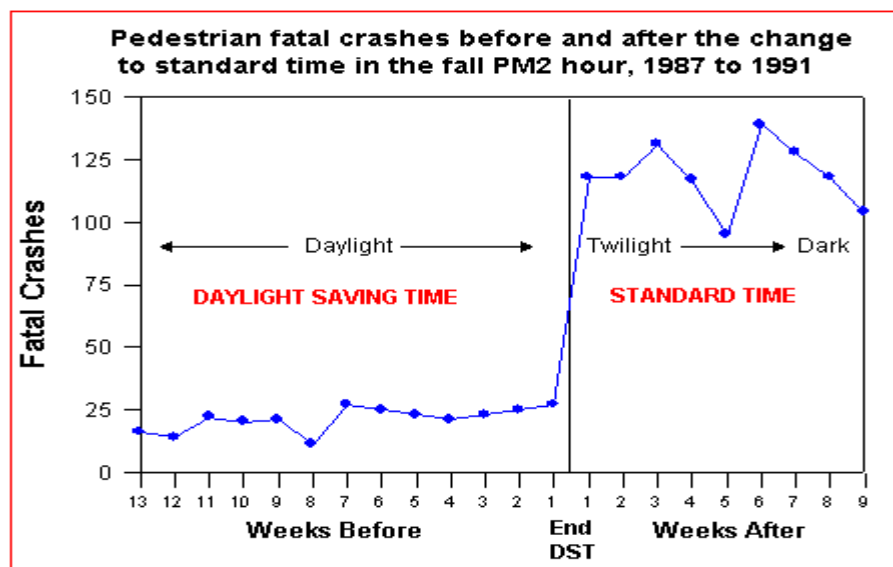
The latest study "Short and long term Effects of Daylight Saving Time on Fatal Automobile Crashes." was published in February 2007 in *The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy* (Vol. 7, Issue 1, Article 11). The abstract of the study (www.bepress.com/bejeap/vol7/iss1/art11) states:

1. DST has no significant detrimental effect on automobile crashes in the short term;
2. DST significantly reduces automobile crashes in the long term with an 8-11% fall in crashes involving pedestrians, and a 6-10% fall in crashes for car occupants in the weeks after the spring shift to DST."

Apart from poorer visibility in the early evening, there are also recent neurophysiological studies showing that **reaction times are slower in poor light.** The longer reaction time translates into significantly increased stopping distances or time taken to initiate avoiding action.

2003 Queensland Transport statistics show that the fatal accident rate peaks in the late afternoon/early evening and that most of the fatal accidents (75%) occur in southeastern Queensland. This region would benefit by shifting the first hour of light when few cars are on the road to the evening when the traffic is heavier.

The road safety issue alone is a strong argument for introducing daylight saving to SEQ. Apart from a decrease in fatalities and injuries, there will be savings to emergency (police, ambulance and fire brigade) and hospital services.



In 1995, an article in the *American Journal of Public Health* showed that in the USA from 1987 to 1991 the weekly pedestrian fatality rate in the hour ending at sunset was less than 25 in the 13 weeks before the end of daylight saving and rose to over 100 in the 9 weeks after the end of daylight saving.

SUMMARY

South-eastern Queensland is ideally positioned to benefit from daylight saving.

- Its **south eastern location** is suited to accommodate an hour of daylight saving. There will still be enough light for early morning with twilight starting between 5:15am and 6:15am and evening twilight will still end relatively early between 7:15pm and 8:15pm.
- **Two time zones** work well in many other regions of the world. In Queensland there is a natural dividing line through a sparsely populated region northwest of Bundaberg and Toowoomba.
- SEQ will benefit by a **decrease in energy consumption**.
- The **road safety benefits are significant for SEQ** and can not be ignored any longer.

Daylight saving outside of the SEQ region is inappropriate.

- The rest of Queensland already has a mild to moderate daylight saving effect year round.
- There is not enough surplus light in the morning that can be shifted to the evening.
- **The road safety and energy benefits will therefore be minimal.**

"Regional daylight saving certainly has a lot of benefits and sooner or later I think we have to seriously consider how we ensure the people in south-east Queensland get those benefits"

Jeff Seeney, ABC News 4 October 2007 (*two days after Premier Bligh's decision*)