

## Yes vote for daylight saving, but MPs split

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**Robyn Turnor**

June 24, 2008 08:00am

**PERTHNOW EXCLUSIVE:** A PERTHNOW poll has delivered an overwhelming vote of support for daylight saving, with 70 per cent backing permanent introduction.

In one of the biggest surveys of Perthnow readers, the poll attracted 7320 votes, with an overwhelming 70 per cent voting in favour of the permanent introduction of daylight saving.

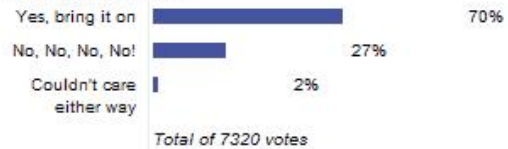
In the strongest vote of support yet for the controversial move, just 27 of respondents maintained their rage against daylight saving.

Two per cent of those who voted said they "couldn't care either way."

After two years of a controversial trial, the WA business community emphatically backs permanent daylight saving for WA. What do you say?

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**YES VOTE:** A Perthnow poll emphatically backs the introduction of daylight saving permanently in WA.

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<http://www.news.com.au/perthnow/story/0,21598,23913688-2761,00.html>

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### The MPs behind the daylight saving Bill

While community debate continues to rage over daylight saving, *Perthnow* talks to the the MPs behind the initial trial.

While politicians Matt Birney and Brendon Grylls sit on opposite sides of the daylight saving fence there is some common ground in being on the end of public discussions about the issue.

Member for Kalgoorlie Matt Birney, who co-sponsored the Daylight Saving Bill with Independent John D'Orazio, has been surprised by the range and intensity of responses from West Australians, who remain bitterly divided over the issue.

Mr Birney told *Perthnow*: "A lady rang me up and told me she loved me for introducing it and five

minutes later an email is sent to me by another lady saying that she hoped the fleas of a thousand camels would infest my armpits.

"It is extraordinary in that everyone in WA seems to have an opinion whereas even though issues such as health and education are greater issues, they don't necessarily affect every West Australian, whereas daylight saving does."

Mr Birney said the referendum, which will not be held before May 2009, will be close.

"I think it is 50/50 and the result of the referendum is anyone's guess but people should understand that the reason we put the referendum in there is so that the question of daylight saving would be decided by the public and not the politicians or me for that matter."

Despite the debate, Mr Birney maintains his support for the trial and the introduction of daylight saving, although his call for daylight saving to finish at the end of February was rejected.

"I am obviously still very much in favour of daylight saving but am concerned that the very late sunrises in March may convince some people that daylight saving is not necessarily workable.

"When I first introduced the Bill I said in parliament that I was concerned that the sunrises in March might be too late for some people, but on balance I took the view that we should keep daylight saving in line with the eastern states."

On a personal level, Mr Birney said he had enjoyed the extra hours of daylight because it allowed him time to go on bush drives around Kalgoorlie with friends after work.

National Party Leader Brendon Grylls, who initially supported the Bill but is now not in favour of daylight saving, has been equally surprised by the response from the public.

"We were blown away by the level of concern and the level of engagement and I

I wish country people were as engaged on health and other issues as they are on the daylight saving issue.

"My explanation for that is that they think their belief is gospel and cannot understand how anyone else can think any different to them."

Mr Grylls, who has been criticised for switching sides, said he thought people were upset because the trial had been forced on them.

"I think the real anger generated is this ignoring of referendums and I think that is what has given the debate the extra legs and extra magnitude that it has had. People who voted against it three times

think "how many times do we have to vote against it".

"Very quickly I worked out that I was on the wrong side of the debate by a magnitude of about 20 per cent of the country thought it was a good idea and about 80 per cent didn't."

He said a poll on the Liberals website had generated 38,000 responses and a petition with 66,000 signatures had been delivered to Parliament.

"If I put an issue about say the Royal Flying Doctors up there like I have previously it will be measured in the 1000s, not the tens of thousands. It is unprecedented.

"There is absolutely no doubt that it has garnered an enormous amount of opinion and I think a lot of that has been pushed along by the fact that we have a three-year trial when three times previously we have said we didn't want it."

On a personal level, Mr Grylls said he was undecided.

"The last time we had a trial I used to water ski late into the evening with mates and I enjoyed this.

"Now I am in my 30s and I have a young son and my lifestyle has changed so there's not really water skiing until late with the mates, its more get the son bathed and into bed.

"I am a ambivalent about it."

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But Tom , all those things is that what that daylight saving rubbish is all about and please try not to use cut an paste so we can read what you type better without all them little squigly things .

*Posted by: Stanley 9:51am June 29, 2008*

Tom it's quite simple. If you already get up before sunrise for pre-work recreation then DLS actually takes an hour of morning light off you which makes it Day Light Robbery. No amount of evening light can replace that. If i was pro DLS i would still be concerned at the way our State Govt has gone about this. 3 year trial???

*Posted by: Mick of Geraldton 11:52am June 28, 2008*

comment 88. yes thats right, and sometimes even warmer, we just keep the air/cons on alot longer!!!!!!! DLS suxs

*Posted by: DD of country wa 10:05am June 28, 2008*

Forget all the `logical` arguments for daylight savings, they are all excuses made my daylight savings fans to provide additional justification for having it, when all they are really saying is they like to have more daylight in the evening, end of story. But I struggle to see what the anti daylight savings crowd hate about it. Again all the `logical` arguments against it are just excuses for not liking it its obvious that they just don't like it. But why? Is it that they don't like light evenings? They DO like very early sunrise? Or that they don't like to change the clocks twice a year? So someone please explain for me without going on about good/bad for business, kids sleeping, saving/not saving energy stuff that isn't any real reason for anyone `normal` to like or dislike it.

*Posted by: Tom 6:53am June 28, 2008*