



Premier of Queensland

For reply please quote: 148814/RM17/ES
Your reference: 931-07

21 DEC 2007

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE Q 4000

I refer to your letter of 14 November 2007 regarding e-petition number 931-07 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 13 November 2007 regarding daylight saving in Queensland.

Please find enclosed a copy of my response to the principal petitioner, Mr Brooke Winter.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for my response to Brooke Winter to be tabled in Parliament on my behalf. As requested, an electronic copy of the letter will be forwarded to the Table Office.

Yours sincerely

ANNA BLIGH MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

Encl.

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**Queensland
Government**



Premier of Queensland

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21 DEC 2007

Mr Brooke Winter
PO Box 5811
GOLD COAST MC Q 9726

Dear Mr Winter

Thank you for your e-petition regarding the introduction of daylight saving in Queensland.

On 20 April 2007, AC Nielsen was commissioned to conduct research on attitudes on daylight saving in Queensland. The research found 59% of all those surveyed support the introduction of daylight saving across Queensland.

The survey, however, also showed there is strong opposition to daylight saving in regional Queensland, with 52% of residents opposed to its introduction across the State.

Further, the research found strong opposition to the introduction of a split time zone in Queensland, with 63% of those surveyed in regional and rural Queensland and 45% of those surveyed in South East Queensland (SEQ) being opposed, with only 41% of SEQ residents supporting a split time zone.

While residents of SEQ are overwhelmingly supportive of the introduction of daylight saving, the same residents have indicated they do not support the introduction of split time zones. In fact, certain areas of SEQ were strongly opposed to a split time zone, with residents of Toowoomba opposing it by 73% to 20% and residents of the Sunshine Coast opposing it by 50% to 35%.

The Government is not prepared to split the State, either by imposing daylight saving on the regions, which clearly do not want it, or by creating two time zones within the State.

I grew up on the Gold Coast and can see the benefits of daylight saving on lifestyle and business in SEQ. However, the reality is that it is deeply unpopular in the rest of the State and has a large negative impact on regional Queenslanders' lives.

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When I became Premier I made it clear that I would listen to the regions and govern for all of Queensland.

To hold a referendum on this issue would cost approximately \$12m to \$13m. This cost would be equivalent to the employment of approximately 86 additional police officers, 118 additional nurses, 121 additional ambulance officers or 155 additional teachers in one calendar year.

The results of the research conducted by ACNielsen are conclusive so based on these findings the Government will not be holding a referendum on a split time zone system nor conducting a trial.

Yours sincerely



ANNA BLIGH MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND