



30 January 2009

## May 16 Daylight Saving Referendum

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton, welcomed news that the Western Australian community would vote on the Daylight Saving Referendum on Saturday 16 May 2009.

In 2006, State Parliament passed the Daylight Saving Act to give the community a free vote on the issue sometime during the period 10 May and 13 September 2009 following a three-year trial.

"The Liberal-National Government is adhering to the will of Parliament by putting the question to the people of WA at the earliest opportunity. The vote will be held on May 16, 2009," said Dr Nahan.

"It has been 17 years since the last vote was undertaken. Since then, many people within our community have not had a say on this issue because they have been added to the electoral role after the last referendum in 1992."

"Some Members of Parliament had proposed a second question on the referendum paper but as the State Solicitor General has advised that any additional question would require a legislative change, the single question will stand."

Dr Nahan said the community will be asked to vote on:

*Are you in favour of daylight saving being introduced in Western Australia by standard time in the State being advanced one hour from the last Sunday in October 2009 until the last Sunday in March 2010 and in similar fashion for each following year?*

"The State Government wants to curtail ongoing debate about daylight saving and let the outcome of the referendum provide some certainty to Western Australia's future direction," said Dr Nahan.

"Daylight saving has a long history with Australia. It was first introduced in 1917 during World War I and today, at least 70 countries around the world have daylight saving in some form."

"Here in WA, the question of daylight saving has been debated long and hard within the community and there are many people who like it and many who don't. I'm pleased that the community has had the opportunity to experience daylight saving over the last three summers in the lead up to casting their vote at the Referendum."

**Facts:** Voting in the May 16 Referendum is compulsory. In WA, daylight saving trials were held in 1974/75 (Referendum vote lost by 3.66%), 1983/84 (Referendum vote lost by 4.35%) and 1991/92 (Referendum vote lost by 3.14%).

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