



RESEARCH NOTE

Number 17, 16 October 1995
ISSN 1323-5664

Daylight Saving Time

Daylight saving time in Australia has a long chequered history. This is largely because the setting of time zones has remained with States and Territories despite Commonwealth power over weights and measures in Section 51(xv) of the Constitution which is likely to include power to legislate on time standards. It is also because there are many people who feel strongly on the issue.

Time zones

World time is measured in relation to what was once called Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and is now referred to as Universal Time (UT). UT is the time prevailing in the one hour time zone centred on Greenwich near London. Using UT as the time worldwide would have the disadvantage that noon at any place on the globe would not occur at around the time the sun is at its high point in the sky at that place. To avoid this problem the world is divided into time zones. Over the oceans time zones are equally spaced and 15° of longitude apart. This makes 24 one hour time zones totalling the full 360° circumference of the world.

Over land masses political and geographic considerations have changed this ideal 15° geometry. In Australia this means that with one minor exception the borders of time zones follow State boundaries.

Australia

During the winter months Australia has three time zones. These are called Eastern Standard Time (EST), Central Standard Time (CST)—sometimes called South Australian Time—and Western Standard Time (WST)—sometimes called Western Australian Time. These time zones were set up by colonial legislatures in the mid 1890s.

EST is 10 hours ahead of UT. In winter it applies to NSW—except in Broken Hill which is on CST, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and

the ACT. Lord Howe Island is administratively part of NSW but has standard time ten hours 30 minutes ahead of UT.

CST is 9 hours 30 minutes ahead of UT. CST applies throughout South Australia, the Northern Territory and Broken Hill in NSW.

WST is 8 hours ahead of UT and applies throughout Western Australia.

External Territories

Australia has other time zones that are associated with the External Territories under its control. Norfolk Island is 11 hours 30 minutes ahead of UT; the Cocos (Keeling) Islands are 6 hours and 30 minutes ahead of UT and Christmas Island is 7 hours ahead of UT. Australia's four Antarctic bases have their times determined more for convenience of contact with the Antarctic Division of the Department of Environment, Sport and Territories in Hobart than their geographic location. Casey is 8 hours ahead of UT; Davis is 7 hours ahead of UT; Mawson is 6 hours ahead of UT; and Macquarie Island is 10 hours ahead of UT. The Territories of Heard and McDonald Islands, the Coral Sea Islands and Ashmore and Cartier Islands are usually uninhabited and do not have times set for them.

Daylight Saving Time

Daylight saving is the name for the process of putting clocks forward by (usually) one hour during summer to extend the hours of daylight available at the end of the normal working day. It was introduced into Australia in 1917 as a wartime fuel saving measure but was abandoned the same year in the face of public opposition. It was introduced across Australia again in 1942 under National Security Regulations and in the summers of 1942-43 and 1943-44. Western Australia which had made strong representations was

exempt from daylight saving in 1943-44.

There was no daylight saving time in Australia after the war until Tasmania introduced it in 1967-68. NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the ACT adopted daylight saving time in 1971. Queensland abandoned it in 1972, did not reintroduce it again until 1989 and finally abandoned it following a referendum in 1992. Western Australia adopted daylight saving in 1974 but abandoned it following a referendum in 1975. It then reintroduced it in 1983-84 only to abandon it again following a referendum during 1984. A referendum in 1992 sealed the fate of daylight saving time in Western Australia.

Referenda

As indicated above the issue of daylight saving time has generated so much heat over the years that several states have conducted referenda to determine the views of electors.

The table shows results of recent daylight saving time referenda.

Referendum	For (%)	Against (%)
<u>New South Wales</u>		
1.5.76	68.42	31.58
<u>Queensland</u>		
22.2.92	45.50	54.50
<u>South Australia</u>		
6.11.82	71.62	28.38
<u>Western Australia</u>		
8.3.75	46.34	53.66
7.4.84	45.65	54.35
4.4.92	46.86	53.14

Summer 1995-96

For the 1995-96 summer NSW, Victoria, South Australia and the ACT all have daylight saving time running from 0200 Sunday 29 October 1995 to 0200 Sunday 31 March 1996. Lord Howe Island clocks are moved forward half an hour during daylight saving time in NSW to make them operate on the same time as NSW during the summer period.

Tasmania has daylight saving time from 0200 Sunday 1 October 1995 to 0200 Sunday 31 March 1996. The four Antarctic bases also observe daylight saving time in line with Tasmania.

Queensland, Western Australia, the Northern Territory, Norfolk Island, Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands do not observe daylight saving time.

The ready reckoner to the right shows times in Australian States and Territories during the summer of 1995-96.

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1995-96 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME READY RECKONER

To calculate the time in the States and Territories in the left column add the time shown in the table

	Your State or Territory				
<u>1.10.95 to 29.10.95</u>	NSW, Vic, Qld, ACT	SA, NT	WA	Tas	
New South Wales	0:00	0:30	2:00	-1:00	
Victoria	0:00	0:30	2:00	-1:00	
Queensland	0:00	0:30	2:00	-1:00	
South Australia	-0:30	0:00	1:30	-1:30	
Western Australia	-2:00	-1:30	0:00	-3:00	
Tasmania	1:00	1:30	3:00	0:00	
Northern Territory	-0:30	0:00	1:30	-1:30	
Australian Capital Territory	0:00	0:30	2:00	-1:00	
Norfolk Island	1:30	2:00	3:30	0:30	
Casey	-1:00	-0:30	1:00	-2:00	
Davis	-2:00	-1:30	0:00	-3:00	
Mawson	-3:00	-2:30	-1:00	-4:00	
Macquarie Island	1:00	1:30	3:00	0:00	
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	-3:30	-3:00	-1:30	-4:30	
Christmas Island	-3:00	-2:30	-1:00	-4:00	
<u>From 29.10.95 to 31.3.96</u>	NSW, Vic, Tas, ACT	Qld	SA	WA	NT
New South Wales	0:00	1:00	0:30	3:00	1:30
Victoria	0:00	1:00	0:30	3:00	1:30
Queensland	-1:00	0:00	-0:30	3:00	0:30
South Australia	-0:30	0:30	0:00	2:30	1:00
Western Australia	-3:00	-2:00	-2:30	0:00	-1:30
Tasmania	0:00	1:00	0:30	3:00	1:30
Northern Territory	-1:30	-0:30	-1:00	1:30	0:00
Australian Capital Territory	0:00	1:00	0:30	3:00	1:30
Norfolk Island	0:30	1:30	1:00	3:30	2:00
Casey	-2:00	-1:00	-1:30	1:00	-0:30
Davis	-3:00	-2:00	-2:30	0:00	-1:30
Mawson	-4:00	-3:00	-3:30	-1:00	-2:30
Macquarie Island	0:00	1:00	0:30	3:00	1:30
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	-4:30	-3:30	-4:00	-1:30	-3:00
Christmas Island	-4:00	-3:00	-3:30	-1:00	-2:30
<u>From 31.3.96</u>	NSW, Vic, Qld, Tas, ACT	SA, NT	WA		
New South Wales	0:00	0:30	2:00		
Victoria	0:00	0:30	2:00		
Queensland	0:00	0:30	2:00		
South Australia	-0:30	0:00	1:30		
Western Australia	-2:00	-1:30	0:00		
Tasmania	0:00	0:30	2:00		
Northern Territory	-0:30	0:00	1:30		
Australian Capital Territory	0:00	0:30	2:00		
Norfolk Island	1:30	2:00	3:30		
Casey	-2:00	-1:30	0:00		
Davis	-3:00	-2:30	-1:00		
Mawson	-4:00	-3:30	-2:00		
Macquarie Island	0:00	0:30	2:00		
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	-3:30	-3:00	-1:30		
Christmas Island	-3:00	-2:30	-1:00		