
Tuesday, 28 April 2009

DATES SET FOR SA's ONGOING DAYLIGHT SAVING

The extended daylight saving period that South Australia has been trialling for over the last year is now set to be ongoing.

Daylight saving will continue to start on the first Sunday in October each year and finish on the first Sunday in April the following year.

Industrial Relations Minister, Paul Caica, says this provides South Australia with a consistent half hour time difference with NSW, Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT for all 52 weeks of the year.

“In the past, this time difference has varied between half and hour and one and a half hours, depending on the time of year, and this caused confusion for business, the community and airline scheduling.

“Now South Australia will start and finish its daylight saving on the same dates, providing us with the certainty of a clear half hour time difference throughout the year.”

Minister Caica says two rounds of community consultation undertaken by the State Government's SafeWork SA over the last two years, have shown broad community support for the extended period of daylight saving.

“Daylight saving is one of those issues that can produce quite a divide in public opinion and on the issue of the extended period, there are valid arguments and concerns on both sides,” he said.

“The Government acknowledges concern about the extended period by some in our rural communities, particularly those in the State's west, and SafeWork SA will continue to offer its support in the development of strategies, where practical, to mitigate any adverse impacts.

“We've had to make a decision that's in the best interests of the State as a whole, having taken account of the range of arguments and opinions.

“Throughout the consultation, South Australians said they valued the extra daylight hours for sport and recreation and spending time with family, in addition to the business and trade benefits, and this has been backed up by formal support by Business SA and other business groups.”

Regulations will now be drafted under the *Daylight Saving Act 1971* to confirm the commencement of daylight saving on these dates.