

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Statement

HON WILSON TUCKER (Mining and Pastoral) [6.53 pm]: I realise the time is fairly short. With the time remaining, I would actually like to talk about the time—that is a fantastic segue!—and spend some time talking about daylight saving, because this topic has not been given the emphasis that it should have been given in a long time. The last referendum on daylight saving was held in 2009—over 12 years ago. I ask members to cast their minds back to 1975, when the first referendum was held. We have had four in this state, with the last one in 2009. We have been in darkness on the subject of daylight saving for 12 years!

Several members interjected.

Hon WILSON TUCKER: If members remember, the referendum was narrowly defeated.

Hon Martin Pritchard interjected.

Hon WILSON TUCKER: The no vote was 54 per cent in the last referendum; it was very close. I will refresh everyone's memory on this. In the East Metropolitan Region, 44 per cent said yes and 55 per cent said no.

Hon Matthew Swinbourn: Did you say 44 per cent?

Hon WILSON TUCKER: We are going to get to the good stuff. In the North Metropolitan Region, 55 per cent said yes and 44 per cent no. In the South Metropolitan Region, 51 per cent said yes and 48 per cent said no. In the Agricultural Region, as expected, only 17 per cent voted yes. I think Geraldton was actually the lowest.

Hon Kyle McGinn: Give us the numbers.

Hon WILSON TUCKER: In the Agricultural Region, 17 per cent said yes and 82 per cent said no. As we would expect, in the Mining and Pastoral Region—we are not going to get into this right now—34 per cent said yes and 65 per cent said no.

Hon Darren West: That is your electorate.

Hon WILSON TUCKER: The vote in the South West Region was 34 per cent yes and 65 per cent no. A very effective no campaign was waged during the 2009 referendum that literally scared the daylight out of the regional members —

Hon Darren West: And the cows.

Hon WILSON TUCKER: And the cows and the curtains. Look, they did a fantastic job. I recently spoke to Matt Birney, who was the catalyst for this; he put the Daylight Saving Bill (No. 2) 2006 through. In his words, he was almost the father of daylight! The only thing that brought him down, in his words, was the fact that the referendum was held not in winter but in summer. It was held at the end of a particularly hot summer. I think everyone had endured 40-plus degree days, and then we had a referendum on who wanted more daylight!

Hon Dr Steve Thomas: Are you saying that the daylight saving referendum being held in summer was the issue?

Hon WILSON TUCKER: That is correct, Leader of the Opposition; public perception changes after people have been belted by the sun for consecutive days, at 40-plus degrees. All I am saying is that we should have held it in winter. If we had, in Matt Birney's opinion, it would have passed. Also, referendums in WA typically fall to the negative. There is some psychology there, but I am not going to get into it; I certainly do not have the time. Be that as it may, the people have spoken. They spoke in 2009 and said no. That is fine. The previous Premier, Colin Barnett, said that this issue was dead for a generation and that we should not touch it. That is fair enough. He is no longer here. It is now 12 years later. Just to put this in perspective, people who were five years old when that vote happened are now 18, and they can vote. Those people have not had a say on the issue of daylight saving. I am not here to change perceptions —

Hon Dan Caddy: Yes, you are.

Hon WILSON TUCKER: Well, potentially. I have a bill that has been tabled and ready to go on daylight saving, but I want to leave members with two facts to distil over the summer period as they sit on a beach, perhaps drinking a cold beer, and want one extra hour of daylight as the sun sets at 7.30. WA has some of the best beaches in the world and a spectacular coastline; it is a fantastic state. If members are sitting there, wanting just one more hour of daylight, I ask them to think about these two little factoids that I am going to give them right now. The first is that we have a younger population coming through. Millennials now equal the boomer population. The median age in WA is 38.

Hon Dan Caddy: I'm old, then.

Hon WILSON TUCKER: Yes; I will not comment on that. We have a younger population coming through. Younger people want more vibrancy in this state.

Hon Kyle McGinn: More daylight.

Hon WILSON TUCKER: More daylight.

Hon Matthew Swinbourn: What are the two facts?

Hon WILSON TUCKER: The first is the fact that we have a younger population. The second is that we are moving towards a more location-agnostic working environment. Where one works does not really matter as much as it did previously. It is a fact that Western Australia is beholden to the east coast time zone. We saw it with the grand final, and we see it every day. It is only one hour, but it does add up. It is a three-hour difference, and we could reduce that to two hours. These are the facts that have changed in the last 12 years. I will leave them with members to ponder, pontificate on and absorb as they sit on the beach and drink, hopefully, a cold beer over the next couple of months, and think about the fact that we do need daylight saving back in this state.