



NSW Legislative Assembly Hansard

Standard Time Amendment (Daylight Saving) Bill

Extract from NSW Legislative Assembly Hansard and Papers Tuesday 13 September 2005.

Second Reading

Mr BOB DEBUS (Blue Mountains—Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts) [7.39 p.m.]: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Standard Time Amendment (Daylight Saving) Bill serves two main purposes. First, the amendments provide for an extension of the daylight saving period for 2005-06 by one week. Honourable members will be aware that Victoria will host the eighteenth Commonwealth Games, in Melbourne in 2006. The Games commence on Wednesday 15 March and finish on Sunday 26 March 2006, which is the date the daylight saving period would normally end. To ensure the Games and associated events can be completed with minimal disruption, the Victorian Premier, the Hon. Steve Bracks, has requested that New South Wales join Victoria in extending daylight saving by one week to Sunday 2 April 2006.

Five years ago New South Wales had the privilege of hosting the Olympic Games and Paralympics. At that time Victoria demonstrated its support and co-operation by agreeing to commence daylight saving approximately two months earlier than usual. The New South Wales Government is happy to reciprocate. The extension of daylight saving by one week in 2006 will have a minimal impact on businesses and families. Positive benefits will flow from the Games, including an increase in the number of tourists visiting New South Wales.

The other principal purpose of the bill is to provide for a more flexible means of adopting any future changes to the daylight saving period. The bill does not alter the current daylight saving period. However, the proposed amendments provide that future changes to the daylight saving period may be made by regulation. Presently, the Standard Time Act must be amended whenever a change to daylight saving is needed to accommodate a major event. That is neither an efficient use of Parliament's time nor a very practical way of addressing the situation. Under the Australian Capital Territory legislation the daylight saving period may be fixed by declaration by the relevant Minister. In Victoria it may be fixed by the Governor in Council. A similar approach could be adopted in New South Wales, but the Government considers that setting the daylight saving period by regulation is preferable.

The regulatory impact process means that an assessment of any proposed changes to the daylight saving period would be undertaken. The public and peak industry bodies would be given the opportunity to comment on the proposals. Any regulation proposing a change to the daylight saving period would be subject to parliamentary scrutiny and possible disallowance. The proposed change is the practical measure and will ensure that New South Wales can respond appropriately to new developments, which may require a change to the daylight saving period.

The bill provides for one other change in the nature of statute law revision. The Standard Time Act presently allows the Governor to specify the standard time for Lord Howe Island by order published in the *Government Gazette*. Since 1989 the daylight saving time for Lord Howe Island has been fixed by order at 30 minutes in advance of standard time instead of one hour in advance of standard time. The amendment in the bill simply reflects this now longstanding position. I commend the bill to the House.