

The 'REAL-TIME Initiative'.



May 2020.

It is 3:00 a.m. on Sunday April 5th 2020 – Australia is straining under the restrictions and economic problems evolving from the COVID-19 pandemic. Executives of many businesses along the eastern seaboard, especially those in Queensland, would, under usual circumstances, be heaving a sigh of relief.

Over the last 6 months whilst their clocks have been out of sync, they have been haemorrhaging profits through loss of revenue and incurring inescapable expenses totalling billions of dollar\$. This has occurred annually since 1971. Between April and October they usually enjoy more normality in their business activities – the commercial environment is more profitable. 2020/21 will be different.

More business profits equal more tax dollars for Canberra. At the exit end of the present pandemic, our Federal Treasurer will need all the help he can get. There is an obligation to restore, or improve, the status quo. He will need every tax dollar he can get his hands on following full implementation of the assistance packages that have been announced by the federal government.

Eastern State CEOs and proprietors know that, unless there are significant changes, then, at the conclusion of the COVID-19 hiatus and up to April 2021, they will have been exposed to a triple whammy. Their financial woes will be exacerbated – 2.00 a.m. October 4th will be upon them in less than 6 months!!!!

WE NEED CERTAINTY!

WE NEED PERMANENCY!

LET'S RECALIBRATE!

IT'S TIME FOR AN 'INDUSTRIAL RESOLUTION'.

WHAT IS 'The REAL-TIME Initiative' - The RTI ?

The REAL - TIME Initiative is a proposal to replace Eastern Daylight Time on the Australian eastern seaboard with a new model that renders the current model obsolete and is more appropriate to our current and future needs.

The thrust of the RTI requires all jurisdictions on the eastern seaboard to agree to:-

- **ABANDON AUSTRALIAN EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME (AEDT).**
- **ADVANCE A.E.S.T. BY 30 MINUTES –PERMANENTLY!!**

The benefits that would accrue are innumerable – here are just a few:--

- Never more than 3 time zones across Australia.
- When South Australia changes to Australian Central Daylight Time (ACDT) in October each year, 88% of our population would be in the same time zone for the next 6 months.
- Radio Jocks will no longer need to duplicate time calls when broadcasting over an interstate network.
- Confusion at state borders becomes a thing of the past
- Airline schedules on the BNE/SYD/MEL sector would make sense ALL YEAR ROUND
- Co-ordinating interstate tele-conferences would be significantly simplified.
- Time constraints that occur when dealing with southern offices, clients, suppliers are relieved.
- The RTI restores billions of dollar\$ to the ATO coffers – much needed considering present Federal commitments.
- 60 minutes of extra afternoon sunlight for some on the eastern seaboard for 6 months of the year becomes **30 minutes for everyone for ALL 12 months.**
- Truckies travelling over inter-state boundaries would find life that much easier.
- International airlines have, with the exception of Adelaide Airport, no need to undertake the 6 monthly change to their schedules.

ALL THIS AT LITTLE, OR NO, COST TO THE TAXPAYER!!

BACKGROUND

When Australian jurisdictions first adopted International Standard Time (IST) in 1894, our country inherited two major anomalies:-

- 1 Adelaide was incorrectly positioned within Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST).**
- 2 The segment from Yeppoon to Wollongong, and west to Goondiwindi and Tamworth, was not included in ANY Australian Standard Time Zone.**

The original proponents of IST strongly recommended that major population areas, especially capital cities, be positioned **within** the correct/appropriate time zone. In 1898/99 Central/South Australia, as was its right, advanced Australian Central Standard Time (ACST) by 30 minutes.

It appears that our then eastern legislators may have been asleep at the wheel. Today, nearly 44% of our population, including residents of Brisbane and Sydney, are not included within ANY Australian Standard Time Zone - just find the 150^o longitude meridian on a map of Australia. They never have been. The current model of daylight saving, AEDT, which was first fully embraced in 1971, will NEVER solve this problem.

The RTI does and will!!!

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

The combined agreement of the eastern states and the ACT has been difficult to obtain. In a previous discussion with Josh Frydenberg, he told me that the RTI deserves to be 'a COAG agenda item'. The 'National Cabinet' now in existence, which is dealing with the COVID-19 crisis, is not unlike a COAG entity. Decisions are being made which, under normal circumstances, would never be contemplated.

Within Section 51 of the 'Commonwealth of Australian Constitution Act', **the Parliament has powers to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Commonwealth....."** This happened during World Wars I and II when all jurisdictions embraced periods of daylight saving time (DST) to keep our factories open for an extra hour to 'assist our contribution to the war effort'. If ever DST was supposed to save the costs of artificial lighting, then that scenario no longer exists. Instead the costs of running air-conditioners have taken its place.

Currently we are experiencing '**DRASTIC TIMES WHICH DEMAND DRASTIC MEASURES**'. When the Federal Government enacts the principles of the RTI, it would also be addressing the oversight that occurred in anomaly 2 mentioned above.

If the eastern jurisdictions refuse to move, then we are proposing that it is timely for the Federal Government to use its powers as outlined in the Constitution Act and legislate accordingly, as soon as possible before 4th October 2020, to advance Australian Eastern Standard Time by 30 minutes. A mere 30 minute adjustment! A not unreasonable task for our National Cabinet?

WHAT IS THE JUSTIFICATION FOR SUCH A CHANGE?

- In the present and foreseeable fiscal climate, the Federal Government would be justified in passing laws that enact the changes that eastern jurisdictions should be undertaking in order to help restore a healthy Federal budget
- Given the major upheaval to our lifestyle, i.e. normal routines have been severely altered, Replacing A.E.D.T. with something more appropriate would be timely and less disruptive.
- Our values and habits are going to need re-calibration. Now is the time to start.

The famous American Architect and Inventor, Buckminster FULLER (1895-1983) once said:-

“You never change things by fighting the existing reality.

To change something, build a new model which makes the existing model OBSOLETE.”

The RTI is the new model:-

1. That is appropriate for the 21st century and beyond.

2. That all eastern jurisdictions can embrace.

- Politically and geographically, Queensland will never embrace A.E.D.T. I agree with that policy. We have wasted too much oxygen, surveys and petitions arguing about it.
- In 2010, the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland (CCIQ) – on behalf of the then Queensland State Labor Government - surveyed a sample 2300 of their 380,000 members as to the extra costs they had incurred during the previous October to April period when ‘the clocks on the eastern seaboard had been out of sync’. **The report that ensued showed the figure to be 4.35 BILLION DOLLAR\$ over 6 months.**
- According to Nick Behrens, who managed the exercise on behalf of the CCIQ, it was the most enthusiastically answered survey in his experience as the then manager of advocacy at CCIQ. He has described the RTI as “a refreshing piece of innovative thinking that deserves consideration”. A spokesperson for the Ai Group has made a similar comment.
- Considering this was the downturn experienced by only 2300 members, then how many of the remainder were also penalised? Does anyone know this figure?
- By extrapolating the 2010 figures using Bureau of Stats CPI increases, the latest figure for Queensland alone would approximate 6 BILLION DOLLAR\$!! Again, that is without including independent southern based businesses.
- How many tax dollar\$ has Canberra missed out on since AEDT started in 1971?
- People living between Yeppoon and Wollongong would, at last be, officially, part of the Australian Standard Time System.

Summary.

Why aren't the pollies of both persuasions interested in the benefits that the RTI can deliver, not only to Queensland, but also to all eastern jurisdictions? It takes the annual DST argument off the political agenda - FOREVER!! All that is required is the addition of '.5' to the appropriate clause in each of their various Acts that define A.E.S.T.

2020 is a Queensland State Election Year. The RTI is bipartisan - either major party could adopt it as a constructive and pertinent policy!

Australia can no longer afford the disruption, confusion and frustrations that occur every year between October and April. The 60 minute adjustment back in 1971 was an over-kill – 30 minutes would have been ample. It is not unreasonable to assume that, if anomaly 2 had been similarly rectified back in 1898/99, AEDT as we now know it may never have seen 'the light of day'.

Why, in the 21st century, do we have to suffer this inane confusion? On 21st March last, I was checking the starting time of the Golden Slipper at Rosehill using the GOOGLE App on my cell-phone. *What appeared on the screen was '4.30pm EST' – it should have been either 3.30pm EST or 4.30pm EDT.* A week later it was still there.

Even Google, after 49 years of AEDT and with all the resources it has at its disposal, is still confused. This needs FIXING. A permanent and meaningful new model like the RTI was justified even before COVID-19 fell upon us.

I am dedicated and committed to this campaign. It has to happen. It will provide the social landscape and environment in which we deserve to live and work. We need certainty.

Thank you for reading this presentation – documentation is available to support all claims made within it.

I look forward to receiving your reaction to this proposal - if there are matters that require further explanation please have someone call me.

Telephone:- + 61 427 423 427

Graeme Brittenden.

Founder & Proponent

SANDSTONE POINT Qld. 4511. Website:- www.letsfixthetime.com.au.

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