

# DAYLIGHT SAVING BACKED

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Queensland tradies and labourers who left school before year 12 are the only Sunshine State demographic likely to be against daylight saving, according to shock new research.

With the clocks in other states once again winding back on Sunday morning, research compiled by University of Queensland academic Thomas Sigler for WA politician Wilson Tucker has for the first time painted a detailed picture of our attitudes to daylight saving.

A preview of the report, released in February, showed a Queensland referendum on daylight saving would pass with resounding success if it were held in the present era, with almost two thirds (65.9 per cent) of respondents in favour of the controversial concept.

The report has now been released in full, with the stances of hundreds of Queenslanders measured against almost a dozen socio-economic factors, including education, occupation, gender and political leaning.

Almost every single category was overwhelmingly in favour of introducing DST, even the retirees traditionally viewed as being against the concept (53.3 per cent).

Rural residents – another demographic typically seen as strong opponents, were split 50-50, while more than 70 per cent of Queensland-based National Party voters (another traditional staunch opponent to DST) were in favour.

The findings were released as Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate again implored both sides of politics to take a fresh look at the concept.

Interestingly, almost 70 per cent of Queenslanders who left school before year 12 (69.2 per cent) were against DST, while those with university degrees were 81.4 per cent in favour.

Tradies (54.5 per cent) and labourers (67.6 per cent) were the only occupational group with a majority of respondents against DST.

“Three of the categories with the highest “no” stance (tradies, labourers and retirees) all have a lot more access to sunlight,” Professor Sigler said.

“People who don’t finish school are more likely to go into those outdoor jobs where people are exposed to more sunlight and don’t feel as strongly about missing out on an extra hour of daylight in the afternoons.”

Mr Tate said he remained in support of daylight saving and called on politicians to get behind it.