

South East Queensland Denied Daylight Saving

On Sunday 3 October 2010, South East Queensland will once again be denied Daylight Saving, and will run behind other Australian states, that switch operate on to Daylight Saving Time.

"Daylight Saving commences in most eastern and southern states this Sunday, meaning South East Queensland residents and businesses once again get left behind," Daylight Saving for South East Queensland (DS4SEQ) Party Leader, Jason Furze said.

"Daylight Saving has become an increasingly significant issue facing Queensland. To deny this, is to deny the needs of business, deny the people of South East Queensland greater lifestyle opportunities, and deny democracy on Daylight Saving," Mr Furze said.

Mr Furze said that the majority of Queenslanders would like to experience Daylight Saving, particularly those in the South-East. "Premier Anna Bligh's June 2010 public consultation results demonstrated that two thirds of Queenslanders support a trial and a referendum on introducing Daylight Saving dual time zones to Queensland, so it is very clear that the people want to give Daylight Saving a go in the South-East," he said.

Mr Furze said that given the geographic divide on Daylight Saving within Queensland, the concept of dual time zones is devised with the views of regional Queenslanders firmly in mind. "Introducing dual time zones would maintain a respectful view towards regional and rural Queenslanders, whilst also giving fair consideration to the views of those residing in South East Queensland - a compromise that aims to satisfy the majority of all Queenslanders," he said.

"Peter Wellington's *Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Referendum Bill* is still awaiting debate in Queensland Parliament, so we once again urge Premier Bligh and Opposition Leader John-Paul Langbroek to reconsider their respective party's negative stances before the Bill is debated later this year," Mr Furze said.

"Ms Bligh and Mr Langbroek both claim to be listening to all Queenslanders, but it's obvious when it comes to Daylight Saving, they only have ears for regional Queensland voters in politically sensitive electorates," Mr Furze said.

"If the Premier and Opposition Leader were serious about listening to all Queenslanders, then they would allow a Referendum to be held on introducing Daylight Saving in South East Queensland. A Referendum is the only way to find out what all Queenslanders really think about having Daylight Saving in South East Queensland," Mr Furze said.

Mr Furze said that the Daylight Saving issue for Queensland will not go away until it has been adequately resolved. "There is no doubt that a dual time zone arrangement may permanently resolve the Daylight Saving question for Queensland - holding a trial would confirm that," he said.

DS4SEQ encourages people to lobby their local members, as well as the Premier and Opposition Leader. "If people really want to have Daylight Saving in South East Queensland, then residents should notify Premier Bligh, Mr Langbroek and their local member directly," Mr Furze said.

ENDS

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