

Support for Daylight Saving Petition Accelerates

An e-Petition¹ for Daylight Saving in South East Queensland has gained rapid support from nearly 4,000 Queenslanders in its first three weeks. This petition comes after the Premier's failure to act on the majority support received during the Government's recent Daylight Saving consultation.

"With the Parliamentary debate for Peter Wellington's *Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Referendum Bill* scheduled for early next year, supporters are rallying behind a Parliamentary e-Petition calling on the Government to support this Bill", Daylight Saving for South East Queensland (DS4SEQ) Deputy Party Leader, Andrew Bradbury, said.

"We believe that if a substantial number of supporters back this petition for Daylight Saving in South East Queensland, it will demonstrate to the Premier that there is actually momentum for change on this significant issue," Mr Bradbury said.

Mr Bradbury said that most Queenslanders would like to experience Daylight Saving, particularly those in the south-east of the state. "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 dual time zones a go, and have Daylight Saving adopted in the south-east," he said.

Mr Bradbury 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 - since they would be exempt from Daylight Saving. "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.

"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, many of whom reside in politically sensitive electorates," Mr Bradbury said.

"If the Premier and Opposition Leader were serious about listening to all Queenslanders, then they would allow a Referendum to be held on having 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 Bradbury said.

Mr Bradbury 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 sign the petition, lobby their local members, and lobby the Premier and Opposition Leader. "If people really want to have Daylight Saving in South East Queensland, then residents should sign this e-Petition, and notify Premier Bligh, Mr Langbroek and their local member directly," Mr Bradbury said.

1. Queensland Parliament Petition (Internet). Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Referendum Bill 2010. http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/EPetitions_QLD/CurrentEPetition.aspx?PetNum=1543&Index=-1

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For further information, please contact: Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Party

Deputy Leader:	Andrew Bradbury	0427 130 805
Media Relations	Simon Dell	0407 995 341
Party Leader:	Jason Furze	0405 357 931
Email:	media@ds4seq.org.au	Website:
		www.ds4seq.org.au