

Daylight Saving for South East Queensland's Second Anniversary

Saturday 4 December 2010 marks two years to the day since Daylight Saving for South East Queensland (DS4SEQ) was formally registered as a Queensland political party.

"It has been an amazing two years for the Party, notching up a number of achievements in a relatively short amount of time," Daylight Saving for South East Queensland, Party Leader, Jason Furze said.

DS4SEQ advocates dual time zones for Queensland, with Daylight Saving in South East Queensland. As a three-month old party, DS4SEQ contested its first State election in March 2009, when it achieved a credible result and picked up 2.5% of the primary vote across 32 electorates. "Given we were political novices during the 2009 state election and running a self-funded campaign, the Party's result was very encouraging," Mr Furze said.

Mr Furze said that the highlight for the Party in 2010, was the introduction of the *Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Referendum Bill* into state parliament in April, by Independent Member for Nicklin, Peter Wellington. "To have Daylight Saving formally placed on the political agenda in Queensland Parliament after the issue has been two decades in the wilderness, is no mean feat," Mr Furze said.

Mr Furze said that executive members from the Party approached Peter Wellington MP in February this year, to discuss the possibility of a Private Members Bill for Daylight Saving in South East Queensland. "As Mr Wellington agreed with the principles of DS4SEQ's proposal, he was willing to champion dual time zones and Daylight Saving in South East Queensland, in Parliament," Mr Furze said.

Mr Furze said that with the Parliamentary debate for Peter Wellington's Bill scheduled for early next year, supporters are rallying behind a Parliamentary e-Petition¹ calling on the Government to pass this Bill. "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," he said.

Mr Furze said that most Queenslanders would like to experience Daylight Saving, particularly those in the south-east of the state. "Premier Anna Bligh's May 2010 public consultation found 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.

"Ms Bligh and Mr Langbroek both claim to be listening to all Queenslanders, but 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, as that is the only way to find out what all Queenslanders really think of this arrangement," Mr Furze said.

Mr Furze said that the Daylight Saving issue for Queensland will not go away until it has been adequately dealt with. "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 support 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 Furze 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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