

Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Party Celebrates the New Year

The Daylight Saving for South East Queensland (DS4SEQ) Party's 2011 New Year Resolution – to continue battling to have the Daylight Saving problem permanently resolved for Queensland. Nonetheless, the year will start behind the eight-ball for DS4SEQ and other Queenslanders, subjected to a delayed telecast of the national New Year's Celebration of the Sydney Harbour midnight fireworks.

DS4SEQ is proud of its achievements to-date and upheld its 2010 New Year Resolution, by having Daylight Saving placed on the formal political agenda in Queensland Parliament. "To achieve this, after the issue has been two decades in the wilderness, is no mean feat," DS4SEQ Party Leader, Jason Furze said.

Mr Furze said that after DS4SEQ approached Independent Member, Peter Wellington, early in the year, he agreed to champion dual time zones and Daylight Saving in South East Queensland. "This positive meeting resulted in the introduction of the *Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Referendum Bill* into state parliament in April, by Mr Wellington," Mr Furze said.

The Parliamentary debate for Mr Wellington's Bill is scheduled for early 2011, and 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 real 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 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.

On New Year's Eve, specifically, not having Daylight Saving means delayed telecasts of the Sydney New Year fireworks. "We look forward to South East Queenslanders one day being able to enjoy New Year's Celebrations at the exact same time as the eastern states," Mr Furze said.

Mr Furze said that a number of these viewers will have already received phone calls and text messages from friends and relatives interstate, wishing them a happy new year; some of whom would have been fortunate enough to enjoy the fireworks live – an hour earlier.

Also at this time, a number of revellers will have already enjoyed New Year's celebrations in Tweed Heads, only to have casually crossed the street in anticipation of a second celebration – in Coolangatta.

"The anomaly of a 'time border' along the Queensland / New South Wales State boundary, allows people to enjoy a dual New Year's celebration, however the fun only lasts for one evening. For six months of the year, the absence of Daylight Saving causes business inefficiencies and frustrates South East Queensland residents, who would like to enjoy the social benefits and increased lifestyle opportunities, that Daylight Saving would provide," Mr Furze said.

Mr Furze said that the Daylight Saving issue for Queensland would not go away until it had 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 Daylight Saving e-petition, lobby their local members, and lobby the Premier and Opposition Leader.

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

Party Leader:	Jason Furze	0405 357 931
Media Relations	Simon Dell	0407 995 341
Email:	media@ds4seq.org.au	www.ds4seq.org.au