

Daylight Saving - potential for additional 182 'Earth Hour' days

Daylight Saving in South East Queensland would result in 182 additional 'Earth Hour' opportunities.

Saturday 26 March is the World Wildlife Fund's 2011 'Earth Hour'. Businesses and households are encouraged to switch off their lights for one hour between 8.30pm and 9.30pm local time, as part of an international effort to send a strong message on climate change to world leaders.

Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Deputy Party Leader, Andrew Bradbury, said that South East Queensland households could be enjoying an hour of light saving each day, like 'Earth Hour', for six months of every year if the region adopted Daylight Saving.

"With Daylight Saving, the sun would set an hour later, therefore households would delay switching their lights on by an hour. Given that there would still be adequate natural light in the morning to perform general household activities, there doesn't appear to be any real downside to Daylight Saving," Mr Bradbury said.

Mr Bradbury said that it is difficult to comprehend why the Queensland State Government is quick to support 'Earth Hour', but refuses to acknowledge the benefits of Daylight Saving. "While 'Earth Hour' is symbolic, Daylight Saving would provide ongoing tangible benefits. Having Daylight Saving introduced into South East Queensland would allow households to benefit from better use of natural light. Daylight Saving would provide additional lifestyle opportunities for residents and tourists alike and, at the same time, meet the needs of the region's business community," 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 residents in the south-east - a compromise that aims to satisfy the majority of all Queenslanders."

He said that the Daylight Saving issue for Queensland would not go away until it has been adequately resolved. "A dual time zone arrangement may permanently resolve the Daylight Saving conundrum for Queensland. A trial of Daylight Saving in South East Queensland, followed by a Referendum, is a fair way to allow the people of Queensland to have an informed say on this contentious issue," Mr Bradbury said.

"With the Parliamentary debate for Peter Wellington's *Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Referendum Bill* still to be confirmed, DS4SEQ is calling on supporters to rally behind a Parliamentary e-Petition¹ requesting the Government to support this Bill. We believe that substantial petition support for Daylight Saving in South East Queensland, would demonstrate to the Premier that the people want affirmative action on this significant issue," Mr Bradbury 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 must sign this e-Petition, the link to which is located on our website www.ds4seq.org.au. I would also encourage constituents to lobby in favour of Daylight Saving - directly to Premier Bligh, Mr Langbroek and their local member," 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

ENDS

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

Deputy Leader: Andrew Bradbury 0427 130 805

Party Leader: Jason Furze 0405 357 931

Email: media@ds4seq.org.au Website: www.ds4seq.org.au