

## Queenslanders want affirmative action on Daylight Saving Debate

The Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Party (DS4SEQ) is calling for affirmative action on Daylight Saving - not party politics - when the *Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Referendum Bill* is debated in Parliament on Wednesday 25 May 2011.

If the Labor Government and LNP state Opposition retain their bi-partisan anti-Daylight Saving stance, and oppose the Bill, it will be a blow to South East Queensland. "It seems Labor and the LNP are scared of losing votes in regional Queensland at the next election, while at the same time they seem content to take South East Queensland voters for granted," DS4SEQ Party Leader, Jason Furze, said.

Mr Furze said that it is shameful that both parties work to protect their own political interests in regional Queensland, but they won't resolve the long outstanding contentious issue of Daylight Saving. "South East Queensland constituents are frustrated by our state leaders' dismissive attitude toward Daylight Saving and the poor excuses offered to justify their stance," he said.

Mr Furze said that Independent MP, Peter Wellington's Daylight Saving Bill, proposes a Referendum on dual time zones and Daylight Saving in South East Queensland, allowing the people of Queensland to have a say on this contentious issue after two decades. "If the Premier and Opposition Leadership team were serious about listening to all Queenslanders, then they would vote in favour of Mr Wellington's Bill and allow a Referendum to be held on having Daylight Saving in South East Queensland. A Referendum is the only fair way to find out what all Queenslanders really think about having Daylight Saving in South East Queensland," Mr Furze said.

Mr Furze said that at the very least, Premier Bligh and joint LNP Opposition Leaders, Jeff Seeney and Campbell Newman, should permit their elected Members of Parliament a conscience vote, rather than forcing them to maintain party lines. "A conscience vote would allow all elected MPs to vote in accordance with their own constituents' wishes. Is it fair to voters in South East Queensland, particularly the Gold Coast, if their elected Member votes 'No' to Peter Wellington's Daylight Saving Bill on Wednesday night?" he asked.

He said that the outcome of Daylight Saving legislation had previously been determined by a conscience vote in Parliament, both in Queensland 20 years ago, and more recently in Western Australia.

"With the Parliamentary debate on the Bill coinciding with the first Rugby League State of Origin match, it is timely to remind all constituents, and their elected MPs, that having a dual time zone with regional Queensland and the state's south-east on different times during the Daylight Saving months, would not make us any less Queenslanders. A dual time zone approach for Queensland simply reflects the demographic differences and geographic reality of our state," Mr Furze said.

With the debate on Mr Wellington's Bill to be held during Queensland Parliament's regional sitting in Mackay, DS4SEQ invites Daylight Saving supporters to watch the live chamber broadcast<sup>1</sup> from 7:30pm, the link of which is on the Queensland Parliament website" Mr Furze said.

1. Queensland Parliament (Internet). <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/chamber/>

**ENDS**

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

**Party Leader: Jason Furze 0405 357 931**

**Deputy Leader: Andrew Bradbury 0427 130 805**

**Email: [media@ds4seq.org.au](mailto:media@ds4seq.org.au) Website: [www.ds4seq.org.au](http://www.ds4seq.org.au)**