

Daylight Saving Democracy defeated in Parliament

On Wednesday 15 June 2011, the Labor Government and the LNP Opposition defeated Independent MP, Peter Wellington's *Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Referendum Bill* in Parliament.

"It is disappointing that Labor and the LNP have remained bi-partisan in their opposition to democratically resolving the Daylight Saving conundrum for Queensland," Daylight Saving for South East Queensland (DS4SEQ) Party Leader, Jason Furze, said.

"Ms Bligh could have gone down in history as the Premier who permanently resolved the Daylight Saving problem for Queensland, instead she remains an anti-democratic Premier. If the Premier was to act in the state's best interest, then she should govern for all of Queensland by listening to the majority who support Daylight Saving, rather than pandering to the vocal minority," Mr Furze said.

Mr Furze said that on the other side of the political spectrum, LNP leader, Campbell Newman, has placed politics ahead of Queenslanders by retaining his party's anti-Daylight Saving policy – a legacy of the National Party.

"By saying '*No-Can-Do*' to Daylight Saving, Mr Newman has turned his back on the people of Brisbane, in an obvious attempt to win votes in regional Queensland. This goes against his own election mantra of '*Queenslanders will power Queensland again, not politics*'," Mr Furze said.

"It is disappointing that both the major party Leaders choose not to act on Daylight Saving because they are scared of losing votes in regional Queensland, but at the same time, they are taking South East Queensland voters for granted," Mr Furze said.

Mr Furze said that to make matters worse, not one elected Member from the Gold Coast supported the Daylight Saving Referendum Bill, instead their silence was deafening. "Gold Coast constituents should be outraged at this disrespectful display of silence," he said.

Mr Furze said that with the parliamentary debate for the bill coinciding with the second State of Origin game, it was timely to point out that as Queenslanders, we stand shoulder to shoulder, but there is no issue that polarises opinion like Daylight Saving. "Having dual time zones, 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 - a modern solution for an age-old problem," he said.

"I would like to personally thank Independent Member, Peter Wellington, for his faith in DS4SEQ's dual time approach to resolve the Daylight Saving conundrum for Queensland, and his willingness to champion this policy in Parliament," Mr Furze said.

DS4SEQ encourages supporters of Daylight Saving in South East Queensland to continue to lobby their local members, the Premier and Opposition Leadership team. "If people really want Daylight Saving, then residents must continue to lobby Premier Bligh and LNP Leader, Campbell Newman; and their local state MP," Mr Furze said.

Premier Anna Bligh's 2010 public consultation found that 64% of Queenslanders support a trial and 63% support a referendum on introducing Daylight Saving in the south-east, and therefore dual time zones to Queensland. Dual time zone arrangements operate successfully in 15 out of the 50 states in the United States of America and many provinces in Canada.

ENDS

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