

Democracy Fades on Daylight Saving

The Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Party has slammed the Premier's decision not to proceed with a trial and Referendum on Daylight Saving in South East Queensland.

"Premier Anna Bligh has once again taken the easy way out, by remaining with the status quo and refusing to be progressive on the issue of Daylight Saving," Daylight Saving for South East Queensland (DS4SEQ) Party Leader, Jason Furze, said.

Mr Furze said that after consulting Queenslanders and finding an overwhelming majority in favour of both a trial and Referendum on Daylight Saving in South East Queensland, Premier Anna Bligh has simply ignored these findings. "And the Opposition Leader is no better. John-Paul Langbroek did not even bother to ask his members to consult their constituents about Daylight Saving," Mr Furze said.

"Australia is supposed to be a democracy, but ignoring the majority in Queensland, on an issue like Daylight Saving, is undemocratic and un-Australian," Mr Furze said.

"While Ms Bligh and Mr Langbroek may claim that in relation to Daylight Saving they are looking after constituents in all of Queensland, it is clear they are really only interested in protecting what they deem politically sensitive regional seats. It is all about winning the next election," Mr Furze said.

"If the Premier and Opposition Leader were genuine in their desire to represent all Queensland voters, they would both allow their members a 'Free Vote' in Parliament, when Peter Wellington's Bill on Daylight Saving is debated," Mr Furze said.

Mr Furze said a 'Free Vote' would allow all elected Members of Parliament to more accurately represent their constituents on the issue of Daylight Saving. "It is not democratically fair to constituents in the South East corner, when their elected member votes 'No' to Daylight Saving, and it is clear that the majority want it," Mr Furze said.

"How is it democratic if elected members of the Gold Coast are more interested in representing residents in North Queensland, than they are in listening to their own constituents' thoughts on Daylight Saving?" Mr Furze asked.

Mr Furze said that whilst the expense of holding a Referendum had been discussed, the economic benefits of Daylight Saving had been overlooked. "There are significant economic benefits that can be gained by South East Queensland businesses, and that could very well mean job creation. Meanwhile holding a Referendum in conjunction with a state election would minimise the expense," Mr Furze said.

"The Daylight Saving issue for Queensland will not go away until it has been adequately resolved. There is no doubt that a dual time zone arrangement may permanently resolve the Daylight Saving question for Queensland, and if the Premier and Opposition Leader do not allow the Bill to pass, they are obviously not interested in resolving this issue democratically," Mr Furze said.**ENDS**

For further information, please contact:

Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Party

Party Leader/Spokesperson:

Jason Furze

0405 357 931

Deputy Leader/Spokesperson:

Andrew Bradbury

0427 130 805

Media Relations:

Simon Dell

0407 995 341

Email: media@ds4seq.org.au

Website:

www.ds4seq.org.au