

Daylight disarray disappears for six months

The time in all eastern states will once again be aligned, from 2am on Sunday 3 April 2011, with the end of Daylight Saving in Australian eastern and southern states.

"The frustration of lagging an hour behind the other eastern states, felt by the majority of South East Queensland residents, will disappear for at least the next six months," Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Party Leader, Jason Furze said.

Mr Furze said that the Parliamentary debate for Peter Wellington's *Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Referendum Bill*, now scheduled for Wednesday 6 April, provides the Queensland Government with an opportunity to revisit their negative stance and seriously consider dual time zones for the state. "If Premier Anna Bligh reconsidered her Government's position, then residents and businesses in South East Queensland could be enjoying the benefits of Daylight Saving, as early as October this year," he said.

"DS4SEQ is calling on supporters to rally behind a Parliamentary e-Petition¹ requesting the Government to support Peter Wellington's Daylight Saving Bill. We believe that a show of substantial petition support for Daylight Saving in South East Queensland, would demonstrate to the Premier that people want affirmative action on this significant issue," Mr Furze said.

Mr Furze 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 had 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 Furze 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, Interim Opposition Leader, Mr Jeff Seeney and their local MP," Mr Furze 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

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