

## Queenslanders want affirmative action on Daylight Saving

The majority of Queenslanders want affirmative action on Daylight Saving - not party politics.

"South East Queensland constituents are frustrated by our state leaders' dismissive attitude toward Daylight Saving and the poor excuses offered to justify their stance," Daylight Saving for South East Queensland (DS4SEQ) Party Leader, Jason Furze, said.

Mr Furze said that it is shameful that both the Queensland Labor Government and LNP state Opposition are more interested in protecting their own political interests in regional Queensland, than they are in resolving the long outstanding contentious issue of Daylight Saving. "By remaining with a bi-partisan anti-Daylight Saving policy, it is clear that both parties are scared of losing votes in regional Queensland, while at the same time, they seem content to take South East Queensland voters for granted," Mr Furze said.

Premier Anna Bligh's June 2010 public consultation found that over 60% of Queenslanders support a trial and a referendum on introducing dual time zones to Queensland and Daylight Saving in the south-east. "It is very clear that most Queenslanders want to give dual time zones a go, and have Daylight Saving adopted in the south-east," Mr Furze said.

Mr Furze said that Premier Bligh recently re-affirmed her negative stance toward Daylight Saving, with her statement - 'I do not believe that it is appropriate to disregard the views of regional Queenslanders on Daylight Saving'. "What the Premier is clearly saying to voters in South East Queensland, is that she believes it is appropriate to ignore their views on Daylight Saving, along with the majority of all Queenslanders," he said.

"On the other side of the political spectrum, it seems that Campbell Newman, as future LNP Leader outside Parliament, has deliberately chosen his first 'official' policy statement to be against Daylight Saving, in order to appeal to regional Queensland voters. The LNP have previously acknowledged that Queensland's non-adoption of Daylight Saving is a problem, yet they are clearly unable to offer any viable solution to this conundrum," Mr Furze said.

The Parliamentary debate on Independent member, Peter Wellington's *Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Referendum Bill* is scheduled for Wednesday 6 April 2011.

Mr Furze said that Mr Wellington's 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 Opposition Leaders, Jeff Seeney and Mr Newman, should allow all elected Members in 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 constituents 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.

Mr Furze 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 recently in Western Australia.

DS4SEQ invites Daylight Saving supporters to attend the Queensland Parliament debate on Mr Wellington's Bill. "We will gather outside Parliament House at 6:15pm to demonstrate our support and enter the gallery at 7:00pm. I would also encourage people to sign the a Parliamentary e-Petition<sup>1</sup> requesting the Government to support the Bill, the link of which is located on our website [www.ds4seq.org.au](http://www.ds4seq.org.au)," 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](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/EPetitions_QLD/CurrentEPetition.aspx?PetNum=1543&Index=-1)

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**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)