

Date for Daylight Saving Parliamentary Debate Confirmed

The Parliamentary debate on Independent member, Peter Wellington's *Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Referendum Bill* is confirmed for Wednesday 25 May 2011.

"With the Parliamentary debate for the Bill just over one week away, the Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Party (DS4SEQ) is calling on both Labor and the LNP to consider a fairer approach and hold a conscience vote in Parliament," DS4SEQ Party Leader, Jason Furze, said.

Mr Furze said that the majority of Queenslanders want affirmative action on Daylight Saving - not party politics. "By remaining with a bi-partisan anti-Daylight Saving policy, it is clear that both the Queensland Government and state Opposition 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," he said.

Mr Furze said that it was shameful that both parties 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. "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 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 emotive 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?" 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 more recently in Western Australia.

The timing of the Parliamentary debate on Mr Wellington's Bill now coincides with Queensland Parliament's regional sitting in Mackay. DS4SEQ invites Daylight Saving supporters to watch the live chamber broadcast¹, 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 Website: www.ds4seq.org.au