

New Dawn for Daylight Saving

The Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Party welcomes the introduction of the *Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Referendum Bill 2010* into State Parliament.

"After 18 years in the wilderness, the issue of Daylight Saving is now formally on the political agenda for Queensland Parliament to consider, along with the concept of a dual time zone," Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Party Leader, Jason Furze, said.

"The independent member for Nicklin, Peter Wellington MP, is to be congratulated for introducing this historic Bill for consideration by Queensland Parliament," Mr Furze said.

Mr Furze said that it had been over 18 years since the 1992 Queensland Referendum on Daylight Saving, which means the result is outdated and does not reflect current population demographics.

"The introduction of the *Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Referendum Bill 2010* into State Parliament, provides an opportunity for Premier Bligh and her Government to show leadership on the issue of Daylight Saving, by offering a renewed outlook, with serious consideration of a dual time zone arrangement for Queensland," Mr Furze said.

Mr Furze said that a dual time zone is a Daylight Saving policy that would resolve this significant issue and satisfy the majority of all Queenslanders.

Analysis of the 1992 Referendum result highlights a geographic divide, with Daylight Saving mainly favoured in South East Queensland, but generally not supported outside that region. The Queensland Government-commissioned research in 2007 provided a renewed outlook on Daylight Saving that again confirmed this trend, indicating around 70% of constituents in the state's South East support the concept.

Mr Furze said that Daylight Saving is favoured in South East Queensland, not only for the social benefits and lifestyle opportunities it would offer the community, but it is also widely supported by businesses in the region.

"In seriously considering this significant issue, I would urge the Premier to establish an All Party Committee to explore the concept of a dual time zone for Queensland," Mr Furze said.

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Mr Furze said that such a committee could incorporate genuine community consultation in determining where to establish the most appropriate time zone boundary.

"A dual time zone has never been trialled in Queensland, nor voted upon. A dual time zone for Queensland is a modern day solution to an age old problem. A dual time zone would meet the needs of the business community, and satisfy the majority of all Queensland residents", Mr Furze said.

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