

Will Democracy see the Light of Day

The Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Party has called on the Premier and the Opposition Leader to see the light on Daylight Saving and allow the democratic process to proceed.

"Peter Wellington's Bill is calling for a Referendum on Daylight Saving and I urge Premier Anna Bligh and Opposition Leader John-Paul Langbroek to reconsider allowing their members a 'Free Vote' on the floor of Parliament when the Bill is debated," Daylight Saving for South East Queensland (DS4SEQ) Party Leader, Jason 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, yet the majority clearly want it," Mr Furze said.

"Is it really democracy when elected members of the Gold Coast are happy to represent residents in Townsville, but not interested in their own constituents thoughts on Daylight Saving?" Mr Furze asked.

Mr Furze said that further analysis of the Government's consultation provides a very clear indication of strong forward momentum on Daylight Saving. DS4SEQ calculated that the percentage of respondents from regional Queensland as a percentage of the regional voting population was only half that received from South East Queensland. "The breakdown of respondents to the Daylight Saving consultation shows that 3.25 per cent of South East Queensland constituents had their say, however only 1.6 per cent of regional voters had their say," Mr Furze said.

"When you break it down like that, it appears that having Daylight Saving is much more important to South East Queensland residents than it is for regional Queenslanders not to have, which indisputably proves strong forward momentum on the issue," Mr Furze said.

"There is only one way to find out what all Queenslanders really think about Daylight Saving in South East Queensland, and that is by way of a Referendum," Mr Furze said.

Mr Furze said that whilst the expense of holding a referendum has been mentioned, the economic benefits to the South East have been overlooked. "Holding a Referendum in conjunction with a state election will minimise the running cost, however there are significant economic benefits that can be gained by South East Queensland businesses, and that can very well mean job creation," Mr Furze said.

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