

Daylight Saving Referendum's 'coming of age'

22 February 2010 marks 18 years to the day, since Queensland's one and only Referendum on Daylight Saving.

"The 22 February 2010 is momentous, because anyone born on the day of the 1992 Referendum, will celebrate their 'coming of age' and be eligible to enrol to vote", Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Party Leader, Jason Furze said.

"This defining moment, further emphasises how a Referendum result from 18 years ago, is outdated and does not reflect current demographics. These new eligible voters have never experienced Daylight Saving within Queensland, let alone had a chance to vote on this significant issue", Mr Furze said.

The 1992 Referendum gauged support within the community for state-wide Daylight Saving in Queensland, following a three year trial. The concept was defeated with 54.5% of the formal state-wide vote against it.

Mr Furze said that analysis of the Referendum result highlights a geographic divide, with Daylight Saving mainly favoured in South East Queensland, but generally not supported outside this region. 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.

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

"Times have changed over the last 18 years, and the community attitude toward Daylight Saving has progressed to a generally more favourable outlook. Therefore the issue of Daylight Saving within Queensland needs be revisited and addressed, to more accurately reflect current community sentiment", Mr Furze said.

Mr Furze said to resolve this issue the option of a dual time zone, with Daylight Saving in South East Queensland only, should be seriously considered as a viable option. Queensland is Australia's most decentralised state and support for Daylight Saving is geographically divided.

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“A dual time zone has never been trialled in Queensland, nor voted upon. So for both the Queensland Government and state Opposition to continue relying upon a Referendum result from 18 years ago to justify their stance, is simply redundant and bad policy”, Mr Furze said.

“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 Queenslanders”, Mr Furze said.

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