

Daylight Robbery returns for another year

On Sunday 4 October 2009, South East Queensland will once again be robbed.

"When the 'clock-on' commences for another year, most eastern and southern states will reap the social and economic benefits of Daylight Saving, while South East Queensland residents and businesses once again get left behind", Daylight Saving for South East Queensland Party Leader, Jason Furze said.

Mr Furze said the costs of not adopting Daylight Saving had been well documented. "Going it alone while other states move their clocks forward is a burden on South East Queensland businesses, due to additional travel costs, extended staff hours, and other inefficiencies, in order to accommodate Daylight Saving business hours in other states".

"Added to this, a very large number of people are affected by the 'time border' disruption running through the densely populated Gold Coast-Tweed region. Logically, if the 'time border' was shifted to a sparsely populated area, north-west of the urbanised South East Queensland region, the number of people disrupted would be significantly reduced", Mr Furze said.

It has been nearly 18 years since the one and only Queensland Referendum on Daylight Saving was held, which gauged support for State-wide Daylight Saving in Queensland. "Since the 1992 Referendum, more than 1.1 million voters have been added to the Queensland electoral roll, and are eligible to have a say on the issue of Daylight Saving; just under 950,000 of these additional registered voters live in the south-east region", Mr Furze said.

In the period since the 1992 Referendum, there has been an overwhelming increase in the level of support for Daylight Saving, indicating that a majority of Queenslanders favour its introduction. However, support remains overwhelmingly concentrated in the south-east of the State, and most Queenslanders residing outside this region, oppose its introduction.

Mr Furze said that the issue of Daylight Saving within Queensland needs to be revisited, and the most logical solution was to introduce a dual time zone. A dual time zone would assist businesses in the south-east region, and also satisfy the majority of all Queenslanders, not just the minority, as is currently the case.

"Daylight Saving has become an increasingly more significant issue facing Queensland. To deny this, is to deny the needs of business, and deny the people of South East Queensland greater lifestyle opportunities."

"Both major political parties in Queensland have acknowledged that Daylight Saving is a geographic issue for Queensland. A question must therefore be asked of both the Premier and the Opposition Leader: Why is the issue of Daylight Saving within Queensland, continually ignored, when a logical geographic solution, in the form of a dual time zone, is available?" Mr Furze said.

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