



Speech by

Mr JIM PEARCE

MEMBER FOR FITZROY

Hansard 30 May 2001

DAYLIGHT SAVING

Mr PEARCE (Fitzroy—ALP) (6.36 p.m.): Tonight's motion begs the question: will the Liberal Party ever learn the true meaning of democracy? When Queenslanders voted in the 1992 state referendum, the message they sent to government was clear. They did not want daylight saving in their state. A result of 54.5 per cent of the formal vote against the proposal represents a very strong 'No'.

The number of electorates in favour of daylight saving was 51, while 38 were against the proposal. The member for Robina has tried to use those figures to justify the motion before the House tonight. I remind the member for Robina that what is important is the number of people voting in favour of the question, not the number of electorates voting in favour.

Selectively quoting electorates with a high 'Yes' vote does not really cement the member's position in this argument. I can do exactly the same thing and quote electorates which voted very strongly the other way. I notice that the member did not mention the electorate of Caloundra. Only 532 more people voted in favour of the proposal than not. That is not a very strong arguing position.

Mrs SHELDON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The actual figures for Caloundra were 9,191 for and 8,127 against. That is not a difference of 500.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.

Mr PEARCE: They are not the figures I have, I am sorry. Let us look at the rounded figures for a few other electorates. In the electorate of Callide there were 15,000 votes against and 2,000 for; in the electorate of Fitzroy there were 15,000 against and 4,000 for; in the electorate of Keppel there 15,000 against and 5,000 for; in the electorate of Rockhampton there were 15,000 against and 4,000 for; and in the electorate of Thuringowa there were 12,000 against and 4,000 for.

I will also quote figures from two of the three major tourist centres in this state. In the electorate of Whitsunday, 78.5 per cent of the vote was 'No'. In the Cairns area, 80 per cent of the people voted 'No' for daylight saving. It is all there in the figures. And we are taking notice of what the people vote in this state, not what the electorates say.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr PEARCE: What is funny about that? It is good to hear a couple of members on the other side of the House laughing, although their laughter is very faint because there are not enough of them to make a hearty laugh.

Mrs Sheldon: Can we use your quote?

Mr PEARCE: The member can use anything she likes. There is really no reason for this motion to be before the House tonight, and there is really no reason to revisit this issue.

Queensland is a vast state, and the actual hours of sunlight vary considerably between different parts of it. And if members were to travel around this state, they would soon realise that. Daylight saving has an adverse impact on Queensland lifestyles because of this basic geographical fact. There are many reasons why I and many others believe that daylight saving is not in the best interests of this state. And I can assure those members whose seats are in the south-east corner that none of those reasons has anything to do with fading curtains or cows that will not give milk.

Rural and regional Queenslanders have very real and very genuine concerns, and those concerns became evident during the 1990 trial of daylight saving, which clearly demonstrated its impact on rural and country Queensland. All country members of parliament would have received overwhelming responses from the people who were forced to suffer the consequences of daylight saving.

Let us look at some of the facts. The sun already rises and sets up to one hour later in the northern and western areas of the state, as these areas are located west of the geographical line at which standard time for Queensland is determined. During the daylight saving trial, many people who travel considerable distances to work or to school found that they had to leave home while it was still dark. The longest days of the year occur during summer.

Time expired.
