



Speech by

Mrs J. SHELDON

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

Hansard 30 May 2001

DAYLIGHT SAVING

Mrs SHELDON (Caloundra—Lib) (6.07 p.m.): I rise to second the motion that the Queensland government commission an independent report to assess the social and economic consequences for all Queenslanders of a proposal to establish daylight saving in south-east Queensland. I cannot see what the Labor Party's concern is about this or indeed that of any other honourable members. We are not suggesting that we implement daylight saving; we are proposing an independent report for south-east Queensland. The Premier might say that he has a mandate from the people not to pursue daylight saving, but it was not an issue at the last election. The Premier might say that because he was elected he has a mandate for anything and this was just not an issue, that it was not on the agenda, that other issues decided the state election and that daylight saving certainly was not part of it.

To back up what we are asking for, we need to look at districts that did vote 'Yes', which numbered 51, as compared to districts which voted 'No', which numbered 38. So 57.3 per cent of districts voted for it. I will briefly read out the electorates that voted for it, most of them overwhelmingly: Albert, Archerfield, Ashgrove, Aspley, Brisbane Central, Broadwater, Bulimba, Bundamba, Burleigh, Caloundra, Capalaba, Chatsworth, Chermside, Clayfield, Cleveland, Currumbin, Everton, Ferny Grove, Greenslopes, Inala, Indooroopilly, Ipswich, Ipswich West, Kallangur, Kedron, Kurwongbah, Logan, Lytton, Mansfield, Maroochydore, Merrimac, Moggill, Mooloolah, Mount Coot-tha, Mount Gravatt, Mount Ommaney, Murrumba, Nerang, Noosa, Nudgee, Redcliffe, Redlands, Sandgate, South Brisbane, Southport, Springwood, Sunnybank, Surfers Paradise, Waterford, Woodridge and Yeronga.

That shows clearly how all those electorates in south-east Queensland voted. They were the names of the electorates at that time. Some of those names have changed. It really showed that all of those electorates in south-east Queensland voted for it. The government is essentially saying that those people have to be ignored.

I was leader when this referendum took place and I travelled the state extensively. It is fair to say that people in the north and the west did not want it, and for very justifiable reasons. The whole demography of the state changes: daylight in Cairns is very different from daylight in Brisbane; daylight in Cunnamulla or Charleville is very different from daylight on the Sunshine Coast or the Gold Coast. This referendum was held and in many ways it took away the rights of people in south-east Queensland because it was held across the whole state. I can understand those people in those areas not supporting it, and I would fully endorse them not supporting it. They have a right and they have very justifiable reasons to not support it.

However, the people in south-east Queensland did support it overwhelmingly. So they should be considered. This independent report would look at doing just that. I therefore cannot see why people are concerned. If it came out that daylight saving in south-east Queensland was a viable option, and for very good reasons, then it would need to go to a referendum of those people. No-one is suggesting that it be plonked on them and they will be told, 'This is what you will have.'

It is a fair and democratic thing that we are suggesting that the government should do. I am amazed that they have not done it, because they have put their Gold Coast members, Sunshine Coast members and Brisbane members in a very difficult position. They have said, 'You can't represent the interests of your constituents. You just have to represent the interests of the government.' If anything became very clear at the last election it was that people wanted their interests represented. They did

not want big party representation. They did not even want government representation. I think that is one reason why we now have six Independents in this House.

The fact of the matter is that anyone who was concerned about listening to viable and real discussion has some problems. We have to ask them: what are you running away from and what is your concern? The result of the task force survey that Mike Ahern put in place when he was Premier showed that the Brisbane and Moreton regions were strongly in favour of daylight saving, which is what comes out in the summary of that referendum, and that other regions were strongly against daylight saving, and that is very right. That task force report showed that, in the main, business was in favour of daylight saving—and this applied to both large and small business enterprises. Business cited factors of communication—

Time expired.
