




Speech by

Peter Wellington

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard Wednesday, 15 June 2011

DAYLIGHT SAVING FOR SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND REFERENDUM BILL

 **Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—Ind) (8.24 pm), in reply: I thank all members who have taken the opportunity to speak to this very important bill tonight. I start by referring to the contribution of the member for Nanango. She clearly identified what this bill is about. It is about allowing Queenslanders to have a say. That is all the bill is about: letting Queenslanders have a say—first, by referring it to an all-party committee and, hopefully second, by putting it to a referendum in Queensland.

But what do we see here tonight? The government and the opposition—the alternative government—as one, passionately opposed to the forming of an all-party committee to investigate this matter, to consult with Queenslanders, to have public hearings and to report back to parliament. They are passionately opposed to it. Yet what did we see in this very chamber less than a month ago? All members of this parliament passionately supporting, as a mandated requirement for all future proposed changes to laws in Queensland, that those proposed changes must—must, not may—go to an all-party committee and that the all-party committee would have the chance to receive submissions from Queenslanders and to have public hearings about the matters contained in the bills.

The Independents and The Queensland Party representative identified that referendums are important, and they supported those very concepts. Just to reiterate the importance of this, I refer all members to the second paragraph of my second reading speech, and I repeat it for the purpose of the record—

I hope as a result of the presentation of this bill to parliament the government will agree to form an all-party committee. This committee would be charged with investigating the proposed split time zone boundary by consulting with Queenslanders and reporting back to parliament before the bill proceeded to debate.

One cannot get clearer than that. Yet here tonight government and opposition do not want to have a bar of it. They do not want to have a bar of referendums, either. The member for Gladstone spoke about her support for a citizens' initiated referenda bill and the bill that she introduced some years ago. I share the member for Gladstone's passion for that issue. I introduced a similar private member's bill for citizens' initiated referenda in a different form. Again, in both those instances we saw the major parties passionately opposed to it. Tonight we again see the government and the alternative government passionately opposed to allowing Queenslanders to have say on issues which they are not comfortable with.

A number of members have touched on the issue of the split time zone. I refer members again to my second reading speech. The second last paragraph states—

Mr Speaker, I am not being at all dogmatic about the proposed "time boundary". As I have just said, it is a first draft.

It is a first draft. A draft is a starting point for the committee to receive and consider submissions and come back to the parliament with a further recommendation. I introduced this bill because I was approached by people who supported a referendum on daylight saving and I thought it was worthy of debate in this chamber. I must confess that I was surprised at there being only one speaker from the

opposition when I reflect on previous petitions which have been tabled in this parliament and in former parliaments in favour of this very issue of daylight saving.

Before I resume my seat, I flag that I will not be calling for a division because I am very aware of the numbers on this matter. This brings to memory a debate we had in the chamber only last year where again we saw the government and the opposition as one. That was a debate in relation to proposed amendments in the City of Brisbane Bill. It was about trying to lock up secrets in the Brisbane City Council. In that instance we saw the government and the opposition pass amendments to the Right to Information Act that provided unique protection for Queensland local councils, especially the Brisbane City Council, so that they could lock up secrets to prevent Queenslanders from having an opportunity to see what is going on.

In that instance, it was only the Independents who were prepared to stand up and say, 'We oppose this. We believe the major parties have got it wrong.' Tonight again we see the government and the opposition as one. I hope all Queenslanders can see the government and the opposition for what they are. I commend the bill to the House.