

Daylight saving call

By: Cameron Atfield

GREEN BENEFITS

Daylight saving should be introduced to Queensland to combat global warming, according to a leading climatologist.

As nights get longer and the rest of the country ends its extended summer of daylight saving this weekend, Professor Peter Grace, research director at QUT's Institute for Sustainable Resources, said there would be environmental benefits to such a switch.

The call comes after a move last week to introduce daylight saving in the US three weeks earlier than usual.

It was thought that could cut energy consumption by as much as 7.9 billion cubic metres of natural gas and 10.8 million tonnes of carbon emissions, because demand falls in the evening if it is still light.

Grace said Queensland should take a similar approach, although the benefits would not be as great.

“The US situation is more acute as in the higher latitudes the change in day lengths is more accentuated and savings would be greater than places like Australia,” he said.

“The savings, though, in the (US) evening may be offset by the longer dark-time in the morning hours when consumption is usually at its highest. This would be the case in the northern areas of the US.

“It does, however, provide added incentive for states like Queensland to move to daylight saving for emissions savings.”

But Grace said there would be little benefit to introducing daylight saving all year round.

“The longer dark-time during a winter morning would require more heating than the benefit of longer twilight,” he said.