

Committee Secretary

Community Support and Services Committee

Parliament House

George Street

Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Secretary,

My name is Heather Lever, and I am an active voter in both State and Federal election campaigns. I have observed the Queensland Government's management of the Covid-19 situation with interest, and it is what I will be basing my vote on in future elections.

I am writing to you today as I need my position noted and recorded by your office on where I stand in relation to the State of Emergency Powers being extended in Queensland until 31 October 2022.

It is my firm belief that the State of Emergency Powers should not be extended.

- I know Covid-19 is a serious illness and the situation no longer warrants the strict measures, control, and directives that the State of Emergency Powers give the government over the people of Queensland.
- Certified data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows from March 2020 until the end of January 2022 that 273,901 Australians died. 0.9% had Coronavirus.
- That's 2,639 COVID related deaths and less than 1% of fatalities. In that same period around 100,000 Australians died of cancer.
- The median age of those who died with Coronavirus was 81 for men and 86 for women. Both are above our national life expectancy.
- Of the 2,639 coronavirus deaths between March 2020 and January 2022, 92% had other underlying health issues. This is hardly reason for a continuing State of Emergency.
- I note that the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020 is defined as "an Act

to protect the health, safety and welfare of persons affected by the COVID-19 emergency, to facilitate the continuance of public administration, judicial process, small business and other activities disrupted by the COVID-19 emergency, including by easing regulatory requirements and establishing an office of small business commissioner, to provide for matters related to residential, retail and prescribed leases affected by the COVID-19 emergency and to support the Queensland rental sector during the COVID-19 emergency period.”

- It is arguably no longer Covid-19 that is causing disruption to the continuance of life and business in Queensland but the State of Emergency Powers Act itself.
- Since January 2020 when the Act first came into effect we have seen the closure of multiple small businesses, thousands of job losses, and the welfare and wellbeing of many Queenslanders severely impacted due to isolation, disconnection, and financial hardship.
- We have seen the loss of free speech, the right to peaceful assembly, the right to work, the loss of bodily autonomy, government transparency and public trust in our institutions. Even worse has been the fundamental change in our relations with each other.
- A change which has brought distrust, condemnation, division, and hate amongst loved ones and strangers alike.
- The Chief Health Officer, John Gerrard, has stated that we have passed our Covid-19 peak in Queensland, and it is his intention to ease restrictions and possibly mandates going forward. **I think the data above clearly supports that sensible decision, and shows there is no longer a need for State of Emergency Powers in Queensland.**

I trust you will carefully consider all submissions and thank you for taking the time to read this.

Yours Sincerely,

Heather Lever

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