From:	
То:	Community Support and Services Committee
Subject:	Extension to the Emergency Bill
Date:	Thursday, 3 March 2022 9:15:54 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding the Extension to the Emergency Bill to firmly state that WE OPPOSE THIS BILL, and would like to see it eradicated.

The COVID wave is now subsiding and Queensland has low deaths of 540, a number that includes anyone else who happened to die and had had COVID in the few weeks before their death. This number is drastically low considering that 88.4 people die in Queensland every day on average, as per the 2020 Census. If the median age of COVID deaths is 81 for males and 86 for females, it shows that only those at risk are elderly and probably with other serious health issues. This is actually 0.14% of the deaths that have occurred since the state of emergency was declared on 29 January, 2020. With many other issues presenting a much greater risk, including heart disease and the increasing amount of deaths due to alcohol consumption, COVID-19 was only the 38th leading cause of death for Australia (<u>Causes of Death</u>, <u>Australia</u>, 2020 | <u>Australian</u> <u>Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au</u>). COVID is not creating an emergency for Australian's health.

Queensland is also ready to face the future with over 90% of people vaccinated and a workforce that is in dire need of fully operational businesses. The population knows how to handle the disease, how to be alert, safe and stay home if sick and does not require the Health Officer to deliver daily information to remind us. It is now a part of our routines and lives and does not require special powers to help any longer, especially in the younger demographics under 75 years of age, that the disease poses an extremely low risk to.

The mandates and rules in place to help protect us from COVID are now way more damaging than the disease, with national debt very high, small businesses struggling and many people being out of work for not being vaccinated, although they are willing and able. The mental health and wellbeing issues from these mandates and huge and real, and far outweigh the need to have them in place. So many nurses and teachers suspended from work and receiving full pay, another huge debt to the taxpayers, with unqualified third-year university students left to teach our children in school and nursing shortages in aged care and hospitals – it is not good enough. These mandates have also segregated, discriminated and damaged many people in the community, something that should not occur in our country that normally values freedom and democracy. And can I add that the feeling of resentment and anger towards the government for imposing these damaging mandates is concerningly increasing.

It is your duty as politicians to do what is best for your constituents, and it is obvious that the Emergency Bill is not only **not** necessary and should not be extended, but is also damaging to our population, workforce, economy and human rights.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Williams