

3 March 2022
Committee Secretary
Community Support and Services Committee
Email: cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

RE: PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION (EXTENSION OF EXPIRING PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 2022 (BILL)

Queensland was the first state to declare a state of emergency (SOE) on 29 January 2020. This means that if the SOE laws are extended from 30 April 2022 to 31 October 2022, Queenslanders will have been under a SOE for nearly three years.

The last two years have shown us that in a state of emergency, the well being of the individual is summarily sacrificed in the name of “the well being of the community at large.” This would not be a problem, if the community at large did not consist of the sum of all individuals. As it happens however, when the individual is sacrificed for “the community,” the community itself is in fact the one sacrificed.

The supposed cure, as can be observed throughout Queensland and indeed the nation, has been far worse than the disease itself, evidenced by the glaring thumbprints of the disparate policies introduced under the state of emergency:

- The devastation of middle-class businesses whilst major corporations racked in record profits in comparative industries.
- The rise in demand for mental health services since March 2020.
- The disintegration of trust in our public institutions; and
- Many other harrowing examples of loss and suffering.

By its very nature and function, a state of emergency suspends democracy, individual freedom, and open public discourse. It then proceeds to replace it with governance by fiat whereby dangerous powers are left in the hands of leaders who are more than eager to abuse them at the expense of the community whilst claiming to be acting for that same community’s interests.

Our community has not been living under democratic governance as is their due per the social contract, but under dictate where their freedoms and rights are suspended; and where they have no reasonable pathway to remedy when they suffer unjustified abuse as a consequence of the policies introduced to “protect” them.

As stated by Stephen Andrew, Queensland MP for Mirani, when discussing the SOE:

“Since then, we have seen our economy smashed, small businesses decimated, hundreds of thousands of jobs lost and people’s lives turned upside down.

All sacrificed on the altar of “public safety” – along with free speech, the right to peaceful assembly, the right to work, freedom of conscience, 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 clouded by suspicion and distrust.” (<https://www.facebook.com/StephenAndrewMP>)

Even the death tolls have been grossly over reported, with the TGA and CDC admitting that only 8.6% and 6%, respectively, of COVID-19 deaths could be solely attributed to the Virus.

(<https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/covid-19-mortality-australia#deaths-due-to-covid-19-in-australia>),
(<https://archive.is/jwBRK>)

This colossal over prediction and over reporting of deaths has sent the world into a state of fear and panic, a state that governments have chosen to perpetuate, preferring to keep people fearful and isolated, instead of revealing pertinent truths such as the following:

- The predicted and reported severity of the Disease was/has been grossly overestimated.
- Healthy people are not at high risk of complications from SARS-COV-2 (Virus) if they do catch it.
- You can naturally boost your immune system to lessen symptoms if you do come into contact with the Virus (coincidentally the only thing that the so-called vaccines claim to do).
- Healthy people are not spreaders of disease.
- If you catch the virus there are safe and effective treatment protocols to aid in recovery (which have been used by doctors since March 2020) which do not involve vaccination.
- Natural infection gives longer-lasting and durable protection against reinfection.

With this information, there is absolutely no justification for a state of emergency, particularly when we have evidence of how the state of emergency will be used to terrorise, discriminate against, and destroy the lives and livelihoods of innocent Queenslanders. The state of emergency at this point is less about managing a crisis, and more about retaining the powers and control gained over Queenslanders since the start of the pandemic.

It is very clear to me that Queenslanders have been lied to, bullied, and coerced, all in the name of “public health.” This level of unmitigated coercion has been made possible by the continued extension of a “state of emergency.” Although Queenslanders have been gaslit, traumatised, abused, and confused, Queenslanders still have enough deductive capacity to know that a temporary state of emergency that is continually renewed is not in fact temporary. Queenslanders are therefore aware that the suspension of our democracy, freedoms, and civil liberties is not temporary if the state of emergency continues to be extended.

An emergency is a sudden manifestation of urgent circumstances. With the pandemic at its end, and two years of unfounded draconian measures, there can be no real justification for a “state of emergency” for the situation is not sudden nor urgent by any stretch of the imagination.

I ask the Committee to genuinely consider whether Queensland or indeed Australia, is still a liberal democracy if the people’s elected representatives continue to ignore the will of their constituents, whilst supporting the continued suspension of democracy to the obvious and undeniable detriment of the people.

When voting on this bill, I would urge you to consider that you are either helping deal a death blow to democracy, or helping protect it. I understand that any who vote in favour of further extending the state of emergency, is in fact voting for the continued suspension of democracy and that they have no acceptable reason to do so. Such representatives will be understood for

what they actually are: traitors who have sold their constituents out for unmitigated power. Whereas before one could excuse a vote to extend the duration of the state of emergency because of the initial confusion, after two years, we are wiser and know better. There is no excuse. Any vote to continue this gross abuse of Queenslanders will be taken for what it is and all representatives in support will be held accountable.

Make no mistake, Queenslanders are paying attention, and our memories are long. We hope the committee and its members come out on the right side of history and demonstrate the courage and leadership to make Queenslanders proud.

Regards,

Zita Lerro

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