

Mrs Megan Holland

3 March 2022

Committee Secretary
Community Support & Services Committee
cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

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

As an Australian citizen I would like to formally advise that I **DO NOT** support this bill nor the extension of the State of Emergency until 31st October 2022 or beyond, which is currently before the Community Support and Services Committee, for the following reasons:

- Considering that Queensland declared a State of Emergency in January 2020, an extension to October 2022 (or beyond) will result in Queenslanders living under restrictions of varying degrees for almost three years, thereby restricting our ability to earn a living, interact with our family, visit our children's schools and breathe fresh air.
- Consideration must be given to the negative impact that a State of Emergency has on the State's economy, stifling trade and confidence in our local market, causing tourists to go elsewhere and investors to steer clear.
- In the absence of a thorough and independent evaluation into the impacts of the State of Emergency on the Queensland people financially, emotionally and socially, introducing this Bill is short-sighted and could cost the State millions in mental health services, welfare payments, domestic violence shelters and child welfare services.
- Investment in the tourism, hospitality and entertainment industries will stagnate (at best) under this Bill, allowing the Chief Health Officer to issue or amend restrictions on the Queensland people and businesses that could result in the cancellations of events, closure or reduction in capacity to businesses and driving away tourists.
- In many countries around the world, restrictions are easy and cities are moving forward *with* COVID19 showing the world a strong and resilient stance, while Queensland appears to be hiding in fear.
- Politically, I believe this Bill will be bad news for the future of the Labour party in Queensland. It was evident by the gatherings in Canberra recently - as well as other cities around the world - that more and more people have had enough of Government overreach and even our Prime Minister believes it's time for governments to step back and let people live their lives. While the Labour government is safe from a State election for the time being, the trust that will be eroded by laws that meddle in people's ability to earn a living, and interact with their families will not be forgotten.

Please consider my submission.

Regards,
Megan Holland.