From:

Community Support and Services Committee

Subject: PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLA

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

2022

Date:

Thursday, 3 March 2022 3:18:55 PM

To:

Committee Secretary
Community Support and Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Old 4000

Matter:

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

## Details:

I do not support the proposed extension as put forth by the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services.

We have been informed by the Premier, the Health Minister and the CHO that we (the state of Queensland) have responded to the challenges of Covid-19 better than anticipated.

The CHO has noted (15 February 2022) that the current Omicron wave is coming to an end, thus all mandates and restrictions will be reviewed and an update provided by the end of February 2022.

To date, the only publicly available announcement has been the removal of mask mandates from 4 March 2022. There has been no further updates regarding the removal of other restrictions and mandates – all of which impact individuals, businesses and government departments.

Given we are quickly moving from pandemic to endemic, I do not agree it is appropriate to either extend the timing or the scope of the Bill. The current provisions end on 30 April 2022 – and should not be extended beyond this date.

There is also limited information regarding ongoing review and amendments to this Bill. If progressed, including further details regarding this process would provide confidence to Queenslanders that only short-term, reasonable measures that align with current health advice are being introduced – rather than broad, expanded approaches with over-extended end dates.

Kind Regards, **Shona Thompson**