

03/03/2022

To:

Committee Secretary

Community Support and Services Committee Parliament House George Street Brisbane Qld 4000

Matter:

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

I do not support the proposed extension to the Emergency Bill (until 31st October, 2022), as put forth by the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services.

The Premier, the Health Minister and the Chief Health Officer have informed Queenslanders that we (the state of Queensland) have responded to the challenges of Covid-19 better than anticipated.

The CHO stated on 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.

The pandemic has moved to an endemic, and as such, it is unreasonable to 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.

Limited information regarding ongoing review and amendments to this Bill is available. 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.

Sincerely,



Stacey Wasmund

