

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

I strongly oppose this bill. I strongly oppose extending the state of emergency.

It is my firm belief that we are no longer in a health emergency.

If we are **ever** going to move on from this pandemic and it's laws, the time is **now**.

There is no further goal to hit or excuse that could possibly deem it necessary to extend these powers.

Queensland is over 90% vaccinated.

The current circulating strain is incredibly mild.

ICU numbers were far less than predicted at the peak of this wave, and are even less now that we are past the peak.

The hospitals are not struggling or overwhelmed, not even close, they are coping as well as they ever could.

There is absolutely no way anything is predicted to change that could overwhelm the health system.

Since this government has liked to use the "well other countries are doing it too" excuse to impose these mandates and restrictions on us, how about we look to what these same countries are doing now:

- UK has lifted all mandates.
 - Ireland has lifted all mandates
 - Denmark have lifted all mandates
 - Sweden have no mandates
 - Norway have lifted all mandates
 - Iceland have lifted all mandates
- Along with many others.

Some of these countries had far harsher mandates than Queensland.

Most of these countries were hit far harder by covid, have worse climates and have health systems that coped far worse than Queensland.

Yet these countries have lifted all mandates and are doing just fine. Some are even doing better than they were with mandates in place.

We've been lucky every step of this pandemic to have the opportunity to first look at what other countries are doing and decide what to do based on how it works out for them.

And we have again been lucky now to have the opportunity to let them go first in removing all powers and seeing what happens.

What happens is clear, people move on with their lives and everything is fine.

It is time Queensland caught up with the rest of the world and moved on.

It is time Queensland allowed our tourism sector to recover from the 2 years of punishment this pandemic and it's mandates put it through.

Everybody is basically already living as normal now and we are doing just fine.

Unless you are planning to introduce further mandates and restrictions on people's freedom I see no reason to extend these powers.

I see no reason and there is no scientific health justification for why you would want to impose further mandates, or restriction on people, so I certainly hope that this is not your plan by extending the powers this bill grants.

I strongly oppose this bill. I strongly oppose extending the state of emergency.

The time you have been promising us and talking about is here.

This bill was for a pandemic. We are now in an endemic.

We got 90%+ vaccinated, well and truly past what qualifies as herd immunity.

We stayed home and slowed the spread.

We wore masks to flatten the peak.

And it worked, we are at the promised goal. Now uphold your end of the bargain and let us live our lives.

Mitchell Cullen

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