

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)

I do not support the Bill nor the extension of the state of emergency powers in Queensland.

Covid-19 (Omicron) no longer justifies a state of emergency or any extension of powers.

The pandemic has reached endemic phase and is now mostly a very mild disease and no longer calls for a state of emergency or special powers for governing in Queensland. The government should be more than able to govern effectively within the existing legislative framework.

The expiring of current measures in place will be welcomed by most Queenslanders, with the exception of those who have fully bought into the fear and spread of misinformation perpetuated by the daily media statements from the Chief Health Officer, Minister for Health and Premier.

Small and medium business have been hit extremely hard by lockdowns, restrictions, and having to turn away customers and their families ongoing, due to their vaccination status. A vaccine which doesn't reduce the transmission or contraction of the omicron Covid-19 virus.

The extreme mental health impacts that have come about because of how the pandemic has been managed in Queensland far outweighs any benefits to public health from restrictions.

The emergency powers have trampled on Human Rights and the limitations placed on individuals are not reasonable or justifiable.

It is very clear to our community that we 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 the community has been gaslit, traumatised, abused, and confused, we still have enough deductive capacity to know that a temporary state of emergency that is continually renewed is not in fact temporary. We 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 urge you to consider that you are either helping deal a death blow to democracy, or helping protect it. We in the community 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.

Elizabeth Stark

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