

From: [Annalise Sutton](#)
To: [Community Support and Services Committee](#)
Subject: Objection to the Extension of the Emergency Provisions
Date: Friday, 4 March 2022 8:17:29 AM

To the Committee Secretary,

RE: Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022

I write to the committee to clearly state my opposition to all parts of the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provision) Amendment Bill 2022.

- The "State of Emergency" powers that have been in place for the past two years have resulted in infringements on human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of the citizens of Queensland.
- With the release of the current ABS there is no appropriate justification to extend the state of emergency.

The original Public Health Act 2005 allowed a maximum allowable extension of only 7 days at a time and asking Queenslanders to again approve an extension must be extensively justified by empirical evidence and sound health advice, made available to public scrutiny, including a detailed risk-benefit analysis of the continuation of such powers.

The maximum allowable extension of emergency powers may have been necessary during the peak of the pandemic, however the conditions under which the original 'Covid-19 Emergency' was declared have substantially changed. The original Covid-19 variant presented a much greater mortality risk and risk of severe outcomes compared to the Omicron variant (BA.1). Furthermore, Queensland's Covid-19 ICU admissions and hospitalisations are decreasing and Queensland has recently opened its domestic borders, is accepting international travelers, is relaxing mask mandates and capacity limits and reviewing public health restrictions. Extending the expiring provisions by the maximum allowable amount under these conditions is scientifically unjustified and would be a violation of Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

I ask that the committee request and review in detail the scientific literature and supporting evidence the Health Minister is relying on to justify a 6 month extension of the expiring provisions and what specific conditions in Queensland would satisfy a declaration of the end of the 'Covid-19 emergency' as defined by the Public Health Act 2005. The public release of this information is vital for government transparency, government oversight and to safeguard against potential abuse of the Public Health Act 2005.

Kind Regards,

Annalise Coyle

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