


3 March 2022

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

I am writing in regards to the Bill to extend the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring provisions).

I firmly believe that the Bill should not be extended.

The people of Queensland have had their lives put on hold over the past two years because of the Covid situation. Businesses, livelihoods, families, relationships, and mental health have been adversely affected. If the bill is extended these ongoing changes that the state of emergency brings will continue to adversely affect and segregate Queenslanders. With the Bill not being extended, Queenslanders will be able to begin to get their lives back on track in their own individual way without the government telling them what they can and cannot do.

The international borders have been opened allowing people to come to and leave the country. Surely if we have reached the stage of letting people into the country, we are no longer in a medical emergency situation that requires government management.

The government has just recently launched a tourism campaign – the first in over 18 months – to encourage Australians to holiday in Queensland. If we are at the stage of recovery that we can do this, is there an emergency that requires the Bill to be extended? The state of emergency has left CBD's empty due to business closures we want visitors to see the best of Queensland, therefore we need the state of emergency to end so business can reopen.

When these state of emergency laws were introduced in 2020, we had little understanding of the Covid 19 virus and what it meant for society as a whole. Now we understand the situation and know more about how the virus works. We know the groups that are at risk – the elderly and those with one or more severe illnesses. Do we need an extension of the state of emergency to look after just these groups?

Is there a medical state of emergency when there are treatments for the virus? Vaccinations have been introduced and over 90 percent of the population have been vaccinated. There are also other medical treatments for those who need it. Molnupiravir and Remdesivir are now available to help at-risk patients. If we can manage the virus for those who are at-risk then it is not an emergency, so the Bill does not need to be extended?

The Queensland Government has started to ease restrictions even with cases of Covid still being identified. If they are able to, do this, is there a medical emergency?

Queenslanders just want this to end. They want to be able to work, earn a living and get on with their lives.

I thank you for taking the time to read this and trust you will consider my point of view.

Yours sincerely,

Kathy Ali


