

From: [Peter Campbell](#)
To: [Community Support and Services Committee](#)
Cc: [Toowoomba North Electorate Office](#); [Garth Hamilton Fed Mem Groom](#); [Leader](#); groom@qld.onenation.org.au; mike@mikekelly.com.au
Subject: Submission re extension of emergency powers.
Date: Friday, 4 March 2022 10:20:21 AM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm writing to you in relation to the PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION (EXTENSION OF EXPIRING PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 2022.

I am opposed to this bill for the following reasons:

1. The key word is 'emergency.' An emergency is defined as a serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action.
2. Emergencies don't last indefinitely. Whilst the initial outbreak of SARS-Cov-2 in January 2020 fitted the definition of an emergency, the current situation in Qld does not.
3. It was anticipated that case numbers would increase when the borders opened. Case numbers peaked in January 2022 and have declined steadily since.
4. Despite increased case numbers, hospitalisations and deaths remain comparable with the seasonal flu. ABS data confirms this.
5. The mask mandate ends today which is confirmation by the Qld Gov that the situation has improved.
6. At any given time there are numerous infectious diseases circulating within the community. We live with those diseases without declaring an emergency. We can do the same with COVID-19.
7. Despite the fact that the Qld Gov claims a better than 90% overall vaccination rate, the spread of the virus has continued thereby rendering any segregation by virtue of vaccination status entirely redundant.
8. I note that the overwhelming number of responses to the last extension were against the extension of said emergency powers. I envisage a similar response to this bill.
9. Living in a constant state of emergency is detrimental to long term mental health.
10. I shall conclude with a quote from Paul Kelly in The Weekend Australian, July 3-4 2021 which is an accurate reflection of my concerns. *Australia has become a short-term, narrow-visioned, sectional interest nation. Our public culture is regressing into a safety-first, protectionist, fortress mindset subservient to the dictates of populist premiers...Blind protectionism promoted by premiers has reached highs few Australians have seen in their lifetime as national unity is subjugated...Australia is now threatened with declining performance. Unless Australia changes the brutal, negative, reform-veto tactics that consume its politicians, then decline will become the story of this generation. The public will pay a damaging price in stagnant wages, a lower living standards trajectory, community division and growing unhappiness.*

Thank you,

Peter Campbell

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