

Graeme Wood

2 March 2022

Dear Committee Members

I am writing to express my concern at the proposal to extend Queensland's State of Emergency. I call on the Queensland Government to end the State of Emergency and the Mandates that accompany them so Queenslanders can get on with their daily lives. Looking at the statistics, there seems to be no logical reason to extend the SoE as there is no emergency in regards to the COVID 19 situation. These powers were intended to be used for a period of three months however, the current situation has been extended beyond 22 months and to the general public appears unending. Queenslanders are a patient people but the current measures given the situation are provoking to say the least.

To date the current measures have affected me directly in the following ways,

- I have not been able to access medical treatment on the same basis as other Queenslanders
- In my work accommodation we were reduced to eating alone and only given fast food options for 6 months (this had mental and emotional repercussions on the staff who mostly live away from their families, not to mention the health implications of a fast-food diet)
- I had to have a pass to travel 200km within Queensland to work
- I have been unable to visit family and mark significant events (weddings)
- I am now faced with unemployment despite being highly skilled in my job and fit and able to work

From the data it appears that the measures were disproportionate to the risk and rather than keeping Queenslanders safe the Government has exacerbated mental health issues in population and caused divisions in the community, something not seen in Queenslanders in my lifetime. The data I'm sure has been presented to this committee by others, so I won't repeat it however I will request that the committee refer to it when making their decision regarding the State of Emergency and think of the people, the comparative statistics, and put aside the rhetoric and rebuttals because the people of Queensland are sick of hearing it in the light of the facts.

Thank you so much for your time

Kind regards

Graeme Wood