

4<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Charmaine Chambers

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Under the Public Health and Other Legislation (extension of expiring provisions) Amendment Bill 2022, Queensland 'State of Emergency' laws will be extended from 30 April to 30 October 2022.

My position on the matter: I am against the extension of the State of Emergency' in Queensland

Reasons for my position on the matter:

**1. The data does not support a 'State of Emergency' situation.**

Current *Australian Bureau of Statistics* data indicates that Covid-19 is responsible for **less than 1% of deaths in Australia**, for the past two years. The median age of those who died with coronavirus was 81 for men, 86 for women. Both are above our national life expectancy. 92% (of the less than 1%) of Covid deaths occurred in people who had 3 or more underlying conditions <https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/covid-19-mortality-australia> . This data does not justify a 'State of Emergency' situation, continuing is government overreach.

**2. Queensland is over 90% vaccinated.**

Queensland's vaccination rate is over 90%, therefore Queenslanders have sufficient protection to justify an end to the 'State of Emergency'. Furthermore, Queenslanders can take responsibility for their own health and make their own decisions relating to protection against Covid-19.

**3. The rest of the world is moving on from Covid-19 and our international borders are open to tourists.**

Covid restrictions have been lifted in many parts of the world, countries such as the UK have ended mandates and restrictions that come with 'State of Emergency' powers. Queensland also needs to move forward and learn to live with Covid. In addition, Australia is open for international tourists to visit, tourists visiting a place that is in a 'State of Emergency' does not make sense. Continuing a 'State of Emergency' is likely to reduce the number of overseas travellers choosing Queensland as an attractive holiday destination. This will have a huge impact on our already struggling tourist industry. Queensland needs to be seen as a safe and stable destination for international tourists, a 'State of Emergency' does not align with this and does not promote confidence in the region.

**4. The State of Emergency allows restrictions and mandates, which impacts Queenslanders' ability to participate in society and work.**

Considering all the above points, taking away a family's source of income, takes away their ability to pay rent (or mortgages), put food on the table, pay bills which leads to a two tiered society of division and discrimination. The 'State of Emergency' allows mandates and restrictions to stay in place. It's time to allow Queenslanders to take responsibility for their own health and move on together.

Sincerely

Charmaine Chambers