

4 March 2022

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Committee Secretary  
Community Support and Services Committee  
Parliament House  
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Dear Committee Secretary,

RE: PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION (EXTENSION OF EXPIRING PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 2022 (BILL)

I wish to formally advise that I do not support the Bill nor the extension of the state of emergency. Queensland was the first state to declare a state of emergency (SOE) on 29 January 2020. This means that if the SOE laws are extended from 30 April 2022 to 31 October 2022, Queenslanders will have been under a SOE for nearly three years.

The last two years have shown us that imposing a State of Emergency and the consequent directives and mandates associated, can be observed throughout Queensland as being far more destructive than the disease itself as seen through:

- The rise in demand for mental health services since March 2020
- Small businesses decimated
- The loss of thousands of jobs due to vaccine mandates in workplaces deemed "high-risk"
- The disintegration of trust in our public institutions
- The lack of Government transparency
- The loss of free speech, freedom of conscience and bodily autonomy
- The fundamental change in our relations with each other
- Many other harrowing examples of loss and suffering with people unable to visit loved ones in times of need.

By its very nature and function, a state of emergency suspends democracy, individual freedom, and open public discourse. It then proceeds to replace it with governance by fiat whereby dangerous powers are left in the hands of leaders who are more than eager to abuse them at the expense of the community whilst claiming to be acting for that same community's interests.

Our community has not been living under democratic governance as is their due per the social contract, but under dictate where their freedoms and rights are suspended; and where they have no reasonable pathway to remedy when they suffer unjustified abuse because of the policies introduced to “protect” them.

No democratic government should be able to mandate a medical experiment upon its population. Yet under a state of emergency; democracy, reason, existing laws and human rights legislation have been suspended or overridden, with governments being able to force their people to repeatedly partake in a medical experiment, the long-term consequences of which are yet unknown.

I ask the Committee to genuinely consider whether Queensland or indeed Australia, is still a liberal democracy if the people’s elected representatives continue to ignore the will of their constituents, whilst supporting the continued suspension of democracy to the obvious and undeniable detriment of the people. I understand that those who vote in favour of further extending the state of emergency, are in fact voting for the continued suspension of democracy and that they have no acceptable reason to do so.

Whereas before one could excuse a vote to extend the duration of the state of emergency because of the initial confusion, after two years, we are wiser and know better. There is no excuse, we have clear evidence which shows the consequent directives/ mandates associated with State of Emergency are more destructive than the disease itself.

I hope the committee vote against the extension of the state of emergency and its members come out on the right side of history and demonstrate the courage and leadership to make Queenslanders proud.

Yours faithfully



Kerry Murray