

James Tillman

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To whom it may concern,

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

My views on extending the emergency powers around Covid-19 are that we should not be extending the emergency powers and amendments to other bills and public health measures, as it relates to Covid-19.

Reasons for this are:

1. The virus is no longer as deadly as previous modelling predicted - QLD has had 582,696 people test positive to Covid-19 (as at March 3 2022), of that 570 people have lost their lives, with Covid-19. This is an extremely low case fatality rate to declare an emergency on.
2. With the virus actively in the community, it is no longer possible to stop or slow the spread of the virus, and many countries around the world have declared the pandemic over and are returning to normal life.
3. If many in the population have had Covid-19 and survived, they are now in a better position to assess whether the virus warrants any use of emergency powers. If the government continues to use these powers, when a reasonable percentage of the population do not believe there to be an emergency, then they will not trust the government in other emergencies, increasing the risk to life significantly in other events.
For example: I have seen many people who would normally have a high level of trust in our government as well as our health care system, now question everything that is said. I've even seen people avoiding hospitals, as they don't feel safe there, which is the opposite of what we have had in the past.

Ultimately, it comes down to building Trust with the population. Trust is the foundation of a working, functioning society. If we continue to declare an emergency that is adequately manageable in our day to day lives, then we continue to erode the trust of the people in our society, which will eventually lead to a lot worse consequences than Covid-19 now presents in the long term.

We need to evaluate each extension of this bill as if it was the first time we'd heard about this virus, and looking at the data and the impact in our community that we have, it is not something that needs emergency powers today.