From: <u>Tim Cragg</u>

To: <u>Community Support and Services Committee</u>

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

BILL 2022 (BILL)

**Date:** Thursday, 3 March 2022 6:09:48 PM

Committee Secretary Community Support and Services Committee Email: cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

Dear Committee Secretary,

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

I wish to formally advise you that I do not support the Bill nor the extension of the state of emergency (SOE). It is completely unreasonable to believe, and no right thinking Queensland member of Parliament should consider, that conditions justifying a state of emergency still exist in Queensland let alone that the legislation permitting this should be extended for a further seven months.

It is understood why the SOE was initiated over two years ago when the conditions, severity and fatality surrounding Covid-19 were unknown, but two years later we have a lot more information and now see that there are very few new cases, hospitalisations or deaths, and that the Omicron variant is much milder and far less dangerous than previous variants.

Many European countries have now relegated Covid-19 to endemic status meaning that it is now considered to be no more serious than influenza or any other disease that may circulate from time to time in society.

With the opening of state borders late last year, we have not seen a massive surge in cases, hospitalisations, ICU use or death. This may be due to the claimed high level of vaccination, so any extension of the SOE is completely unjustified and not supported by the current health data. After two years during which ordinary Queenslanders have been hammered economically and psychologically with many small business closures, lost jobs, and freedom limiting Covid restrictions, it is time for the system of uncertainty, and the constant fear that another lockdown or further restrictions are about to be imposed, to be immediately removed from all Queenslanders so that small and medium businesses can start planning for a future unimpeded by SOE uncertainty, and that all Queenslanders can look forward to returning to life in Queensland as they enjoyed it before the SOE started over 2 years ago. Please advocate to prevent this Bill be passed.

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Yours faithfully, Timothy Cragg