

3 March 2022

Committee Secretary
Community Support and Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au

**Re: Submissions - Public Health and Other Legislation
(Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022**

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please accept this submission with regards to the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022.

I would like to strongly object to this Bill being passed and enabling further emergency powers, in any fashion by the Queensland Parliament.

For two years Queenslanders have had to endure exaggerated public health statements and propaganda around the COVID19 virus - instilling segregation, fear, and anxiety.

Queensland is not experiencing a Public Health Emergency which would warrant the extension of these powers, and this is more than evident by the low volume of cases of COVID-19, resulting in the scrapping of mask mandates and other restrictions at the date of this letter.

Further, there is no imminent threat that would require such powers to be extended for this period. If such a threat was to materialise, the powers could then be proposed and considered to deal with such an issue.

The constant changing of goal posts due to emergency powers has had a severe effect on many small businesses, with some closing their doors and others losing quality staff and barely hanging on.

As the member of a committee for one of the largest local Cairns Community organisations, we have experienced severe economic downturn due to the COVID-19 social measures health directive restrictions.

Put simply, if this overreach continues, there will be nothing left. The restaurants and shops of Cairns are empty. Many business owners have moved to reduced trading, or closed completely.

I do not feel that any further use of emergency powers is sustainable for the businesses of Queensland. I also maintain that any further social restrictions because of emergency powers will hinder tourism and economic recovery, rather than promote it.

Upon the announcement of the "Public Health and Social Measures linked to Vaccination Status Direction", we immediately experienced a high volume of cancellations for functions and dining bookings at our community venue, post 17 December 2021.

The impacts of those restrictions and government overreach have caused immeasurable loss and difficulty and are detailed as follows.

- Loss of long term highly trained staff, due to vaccination status (25-30% loss)

- Difficulty replacing staff when there is already a shortage of staff in our region
- Increased wages expected, due to staff demand across other businesses
- Lack of housing for any replacement staff (almost no vacancies on the rental market and exorbitant housing prices)

In addition, the measures / directives imposed under emergency health powers did not take into consideration that persons that are vaccinated will still want to travel, dine, visit any venue or hold a wedding or function, when their immediate friends or family will be restricted. They simply just don't go out, or seek alternative entertainment (picnics, BBQ's) etc.

In short, our economy has been decimated because of:

- Vaccination Status Restrictions (Related to Emergency Powers)
- People do not want to go to hospitality venues if friends and family cannot attend
- Overall interstate travel hesitancy (basically non-existent)
- Local social hesitancy (people are staying home so not to become ill)
- Constant changing goal posts due to emergency powers

Many of the businesses and concerned groups in Cairns have already contacted our Local MP's and Federal MP's in which we received a less than sufficient responses, especially given the severity of our concerns.

Granted, emergency powers have their place, but the time has now passed for powers related to COVID19. There is no further justification for this. The restrictions related to these emergency powers do work for anyone.

I ask that you and your representatives advocate for all Queenslanders and consider the dire effects extending these powers will have on the residents and small businesses of QLD.

Please denounce the proposed Bill and help Queensland rebuild economically.

Regards



Danielle Scott

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