

From: [aaron.cook](#)
To: [Community Support and Services Committee](#)
Subject: Submission Public Health Emergency Extension
Date: Friday, 4 March 2022 11:36:28 AM

Dear Committee,

I am writing to you in opposition to any extension of Queensland's declared public health emergency for COVID-19, and give the following reasons.

Firstly due to dropping cases, hospitalizations and removed restrictions (face masks today) we must conclude there is NO Public Health Emergency. We are no longer trying to restrict transmission and our hospitals will no longer be overloaded with COVID 19 patients - these are the reasons to declare a Public Health Emergency.

If we do not have a current emergency it is the CHO's duty to terminate the current one, not extend it - on a "What If Basis".

Queensland now has the tools to implement quickly another Public Health Emergency, if and when required. Given we have had a recent large wave of infection across Queensland and the natural immunity that that offers vaccinated and un-vaccinated persons, and the high vaccination rate in Queensland another wave is likely (statistically) many months away if at all.

If we were in an emergency we would still be getting daily updates and advice from the Premier and CHO, but they have been scraped unless there is a major change or something important to say! So this declared emergency should be getting the same treatment **SCRAPPED**. Not trying to get it extended for 6 months on a "What If" basis .

We do not keep our cars running when we get home, based on "What If" I might need it to buy a loaf of bread tomorrow or next week.

Secondly, any consideration given to the extension Bill submitted needs to be based on facts, science, and changes since the original declared emergency and the following extensions to that emergency. I expect the committee to carry out their own research here and not rely on the government modelling, that has so far been proven extremely incorrect to date.

I expect the committee to be familiar with the recent ABS data on Covid, the progression of the mutations including the mutation of the Omicron common now in the UK (with removed restriction) the even more transmissible Omicron sub variant BA.2, Data from the numerous countries that have removed State of Emergencies and/or all Covid restrictions. But most of all I expect the committee to have a good knowledge of the newly available COVID treatments and prevention drugs approved for use in Australia - many since the last extension was granted to the Public Health Emergency.

Examples - Sotrovimab has been shown to reduce hospitalization or death by almost 80% in adults with mild to moderate COVID-19.

Evusheld is approved for use in people aged 12 years and older (who weigh at least 40 kilograms). Evusheld is for the prevention of COVID-19 in people who are at risk of infection but have not been exposed to the virus, known as pre-exposure prevention of COVID-19. It is approved for people:

who have moderate-to-severe immune compromise due to a medical condition or currently receiving immunosuppressive medications or treatments that make it likely that they will not have an adequate immune response to COVID-19 vaccination

are unable to be vaccinated due to a history of severe adverse reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine or COVID-19 vaccine component.

All approved treatments here (4 approved since last extension).

[COVID-19 treatments: Provisional determinations](#)**COVID-19 treatments: Provisional determinations**

The TGA has granted provisional determinations in relation to COVID-19 treatments.

Thirdly and simply. Are you seriously thinking that we need a Public Health Emergency based on “We might get a Flu Season come winter?”

The commitment when we opened our borders was to “Live With Covid” fully knowing there is possible multiple new variants to come. If and only if, there is any known serious threat should we act and reintroduce a Public Health Emergency – plan and prepare certainly, but you do not need to extend the order for planning and preparation purposes.

I urge each and every one on the committee, to look each other in the eye and ask – Are we currently in a Health Emergency? If yes - Do you keep your car running just in case?

Kind regards

Aaron Cook

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]