

# JOHN DUEL



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

## **SUBMISSION TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION (EXTENSION OF EXPIRING PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 2022**

### **THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL IS TO:**

**FURTHER EXTEND THE OPERATION OF ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES IMPLEMENTED TO FACILITATE QUEENSLAND'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**EXTEND AMENDMENTS TO THE CORRECTIVE SERVICES ACT 2006, DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT 2003 AND MENTAL HEALTH ACT 2016 TO SUPPORT THE PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE.**

Dear Committee Secretary,

I have been a Cairns resident for 6 years and a biomedical equipment technician for 15 years. I am strongly opposing the bill to further extend the Health Emergency until October this year.

The below statement is the official definition and explanation of the Government and can be found on <https://justice.act.gov.au/standard-page/declared-state-emergency>

“During extreme situations, a 'state of emergency' may be declared to facilitate the high-level coordinated response required at that time. A state of emergency is a government declaration that may:

Suspend certain normal functions of government.

Alert the community to the situation and request they alter their normal behaviours.

Order government agencies to implement emergency preparedness plans.

Suspending certain civil liberties during periods of civil disorder.”

Extending the State of Emergency would in no way be justified under the current conditions. There is NO “extreme Situation” that would need a coordinated response. The Queensland Government itself has moved on and is actively promoting tourism and activities of normal lives.

Any locations either locally or globally that has a declared emergency has previously been declared as a restricted location for travel. Either recommended by citizens local government officials or by the region affected. No affected regions advertise and beckon for tourists to enter their region. Therefore the Qld government clearly only considers the state of Queensland to be in a State of Emergency in name only for the purpose of maintaining the increased levels of control they are currently enjoying.

Furthermore, in retrospect to the current situation does the original implementation of these Emergency Laws truly pass the test of what is considered reasonable? I do not believe so.

Firstly, were there any measures taken to increase the safety of those persons most at risk? The simple answer is no. Aged care facility infrastructure upgrades were not the focus of the government beyond limiting family from seeing these people while they are in the waning time of their lives. This is not a medium of protection but a tool of punishment. No efforts were made to provide a physical barrier to any potential ingress of infection. No biological barricades, no filtration systems on airconditioning systems or implementation of high pressure zones to control airflow and limit viral dissemination. It was clear very early on who were the most at risk and where they were located. Instead they were left isolated and alone in a poorly staffed facility whilst the general population were confined to their homes. This is an abhorrent failure on the part of the government and a terrible outcome but it indicates not only the total lack of empathy from state officials but also a silent acceptance that the situation was not truly one of an emergency.

Secondly, no attempts were made to find and promote any form of treatment at any stage. Any treatments suggested by many professionals both locally and abroad were quashed and ignored with all government focus being on a future 'vaccine'. If such a policy were to be implemented in the construction industry with regards to fires, could we just do away with sprinkler systems and portable fire extinguishers and instead just rely wholly on a Fire Brigade to respond and manage the fires whenever they arrive? Does that sound reasonable to you? Its exactly how the Qld and Australian government treated this situation. If you have no regard for finding treatments then you mustn't consider the situation to be an emergency, true?

Finally, we have the Omicron variant rise and the opening of the state borders that coincided. History and science has always shown that without interference viruses will mutate into more contagious and less lethal variants. Omicron has shown that this corona variant is happy to follow the basic laws of nature. At the time of this rise of this variant the Qld government chose to open its borders to interstate travel and since then has also opened to international travelers. Not the behavior of a government who truly believes what they tell the public. This action of opening borders I wholly support. The closures should never have happened with state borders in the first place. The international closures I can understand during the first few months when the situation was yet to be understood however it did not take long for the 'pandemic' to become obvious as a mild situation with a reach no more extreme than any other global corona virus. It was feasible to consider it 'bad' but truly not worthy of the extreme measures inflicted on every citizen globally. If it was perhaps a global Ebola outbreak you can rest assured I would be hiding under my bed too. Now we are two years beyond the initial outbreak, government attempts at control have failed. Attempts at mitigation have failed. Attempts at vaccination to herd immunity have failed. For this, billions have suffered. Families have fallen apart. Society is stretched thin and hatred between neighbors has been brought out as being a normal reality. Children desire cool looking masks almost as much as they desire the latest iPhone.

We have tried to control one sickness only to create so many more which are far worse for us as a community and as a nation.  
We need to return to the time when segregation was wrong, where discrimination was unacceptable and where children could be just that... children.

I kindly ask the Committee reviewing this legislation to recommend not to support this bill.

Best Regards,

John Duel



