

BIRGIT MACHNITZKE



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 12 years and small business owner (café) for 10 years. I am strongly opposing the bill to further extend the Health Emergency until October this year.

Reasons:

- The Oxford dictionary defines an emergency as "A serious, unexpected and potentially dangerous situation requiring immediate action". These criteria are not or no longer met.
- We're two years into this pandemic, the legislature - representatives of the people of Queensland - has had ample time to create provisions for the (endemic) situation we find ourselves in, if it deemed that necessary. To continue to leave all powers with unelected bureaucrats - whose modelling has been grossly inaccurate - is not warranted under the current circumstances
- The Queensland Government itself clearly shows that the state of emergency is over by issuing the following joint statement, published on the 09th of February 2022: <https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/94417>
“State launches multi-million-dollar campaigns to rebuild Queensland tourism”
“Once-in-a-lifetime prizes, outstanding holiday deals and cut-price airfares”
““Today we’re launching a series of campaigns worth \$5.2 million around the country and taking the first steps towards international marketing,” the Premier said.”
“And internationally, our successful ‘Good to Go’ message will be extended as

two-way travel continues to open up. "If you've been dreaming of a holiday in Queensland, now's the time to book your flights.

"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 behaviors.

Order government agencies to implement emergency preparedness plans.

Suspending certain civil liberties during periods of civil disorder."

The above 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>

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.

Extending the State of Emergency will leave the Government open to lawsuits challenging the extension and would further waste taxpayers money.

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

Best Regards,

Birgit Machnitzke
03/03/2022 Trinity Beach