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K Whittam

[REDACTED]
4 March 2022

Committee Secretary
Community Support and Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
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Dear Community Support and Services Committee,

I am writing to inform you that I do not want the extension to the emergency bill extended until the 31st Oct 2022.

It has come to my attention that there is currently consideration/discussion of extending the emergency powers within Queensland, potentially until the end of October. This causes me great concern, as the government overreach threatens to drag on even further. By the very nature of its name, emergency powers should be reserved for use in an emergency. By definition, most dictionaries I consulted gave an almost identical explanation, an emergency is a sudden, serious, urgent, sometimes unforeseen, situation that requires IMMEDIATE attention. The Covid 19 situation, having continued for over 2 years, now falls beyond the scope of emergency. Once the immediate risk has passed the situation ceases to be an emergency. Time has elapsed allowing for appropriate alternative measures to be implemented to assess and manage the ongoing situation beyond the initial emergency. This is precisely why emergency powers have a limited timeframe initially. The Labor government has already extended the unnecessary emergency powers beyond their initial scope and its holding our citizens and businesses to ransom with continual extensions. Therefore, it is imperative the emergency powers are not extended for any additional timeframe. What would be more appropriate would be for any remaining emergency powers beyond the initial period be repealed.

Businesses and individuals need certainty and stability. Knowing the government aren't going to continue to overstep their boundaries extending their ability to impose undemocratic limitations at their will, on 'the people' who they are elected to serve. The impact on other areas of people's lives including their ability to earn a living and negative mental health needs to become a focus. Please Do Not extend the emergency powers any longer!

The government needs to ensure these excessive emergency powers aren't extended any further and that Australian citizens can live under the freedoms you and our forebears fought for on our behalf.

Thank you for your consideration of my input.

Yours Sincerely
Kathy Whittam