

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Community Support and Services Committee](mailto:cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au)
Subject: AMENDMENT BILL 2022 (BILL)
Date: Thursday, 3 March 2022 12:18:56 PM

4 March 2022

Committee Secretary Community Support and Services Committee Email:

cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au Dear Committee Secretary, RE: PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION (EXTENSION OF EXPIRING PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 2022 (BILL) I Roslyn Palmer wish to formally advise that I do not support the Bill nor the extension of the state of emergency. Queensland was the first state to declare a state of emergency (SOE) on 29 January 2020. This means that if the SOE laws are extended from 30 April 2022 to 31 October 2022, Queenslanders will have been under a SOE for nearly three years. The last two years have shown us that in a state of emergency, the wellbeing of the individual is summarily sacrificed in the name of “the wellbeing of the community at large.” This would not be a problem, if the community at large did not consist of the sum of all individuals. As it happens however, when the individual is sacrificed for “the community,” the community itself is in fact the one sacrificed. The supposed cure, as can be observed throughout Queensland and indeed the nation, has been far worse than the disease itself, evidenced by the glaring thumbprints of the disparate policies introduced under the state of emergency: • The devastation of middle-class businesses whilst major corporations racked in record profits in comparative industries. • The rise in demand for mental health services since March 2020. 1 • The disintegration of trust in our public institutions; and • Many other harrowing examples of loss and suffering. By its very nature and function, a state of emergency suspends democracy, individual freedom, and open public discourse. It then proceeds to replace it with governance by fiat whereby dangerous powers are left in the hands of leaders who are more than eager to abuse them at the expense of the community whilst claiming to be acting for that same community’s interests. Needless to say: “Power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely,” Our community has not been living under democratic governance as is their due per the social contract, but under dictate where their freedoms and rights are suspended; and where they have no reasonable pathway to remedy when they suffer unjustified abuse as a consequence of the policies introduced to “protect” them. As stated by Stephen Andrew, Queensland MP for Mirani, when discussing the SOE: “Since then, we have seen our economy smashed, small businesses decimated, hundreds of thousands of jobs lost and people’s lives turned upside down. All sacrificed on the altar of “public safety” – along with free speech, the right to peaceful assembly, the right to work, freedom of conscience, bodily autonomy, government transparency and public trust in our institutions. Even worse, has been the fundamental change in our relations with each other, a change clouded by suspicion and distrust.”

therefor i am opposing the extension of these dangerous powers

yours sincerely

Ros Palmer