

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Economics and Governance Committee](#)
Subject: Submission re Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021
Date: Thursday, 1 July 2021 1:12:41 PM

Committee Secretary
Economics and Governance Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment
Bill 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am strongly opposed to this bill and the extension and increase of emergency powers that it contains.

Queenslanders have been subjected to emergency powers for long enough and there has been no roadmap or pathway produced by this Government to show electors clearly when and how our lives, rights and liberties will ever be allowed to return to normal.

This can only be achieved by looking at the data that has been accumulated for nearly 18 months in Australia and being honest about the threat that this poses to us. The irrefutable answer is that the case fatality rate is no worse than in a severe flu season. Indeed for the 2018/2019 flu and pneumonia season there were over 3,000 deaths in Australia and yet life went on as normal. There were no lock downs, border closures, social distancing or masks.

The fear mongering over this virus has got to stop and lives returned to normal by living with the low fatality risk posed by this virus, just as we have always lived with the fatality risk associated with each flu season.

Serious questions need to be answered by this government:-

- Where is the data showing that the risk of this virus is so great that all normal prudent and scientific public health and risk assessment policy has been completely ignored in favour of knee jerk over reaction emergency measures?
- Herd immunity has always been the mainstay of managing previous epidemics or pandemics. Those that recover from a virus have antibodies, a large percentage of the population will have natural immunity and together these groups provide the environment for a virus to die out naturally. Why has this approach, used successfully in the past, been abandoned now?
- Where is the strategy to get life back to normal and allow business including tourism to flourish without the ever present threat of a snap lockdown, border closures and draconian restrictions on our civil liberties and freedom of movement?
- What are the realistic milestones to returning to normal life? If the government intends to have a zero new case policy before this occurs, that is clearly unreasonable and unworkable for a virus that has no greater case fatality rate than a severe flu season. Have we ever in the past expected to have zero new cases of the

flu, which until last year was an annual event but which now appears to have been eradicated by Covid?

No extension nor increase of the emergency powers should be allowed. Instead this Government needs to reimplement its usual public health and risk assessment policies to ascertain the best pathway to a completely free Queensland. There is always risk in life but the nanny state of Queensland should have by now back pedalled from its original strict measures based on the data that has been gathered since early last year, and educated the public as to the reality of living with the risk of the virus versus the benefits of a return to an open economy and freedom of liberty, rights and movement.

Yours faithfully,

Timothy Cragg

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