



The Queensland Police Commissioned Officers' Union

Registered under the *Industrial Relations Act 1999*

ABN 3491385980

'85+ years strong'

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

Dear Sir/Madam

The Queensland Police Commissioned Officers Union (QPCOU) seeks to provide a submission in relation to *Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021* and we thank the Committee for the opportunity to respond.

The QPCOU represents senior members of the Queensland Police Service (QPS) from the rank of Inspector through to Chief Superintendent.

Firstly the QPCOU acknowledges the need for a range of legislative measures to facilitate the health response to COVID-19 and the pandemic. Many of our members have been directly involved in managing the policing response relating to the pandemic and carrying out monitoring, education and where necessary enforcement of the health directives.

At various times, at least 10% of the QPS have had direct involvement in COVID-19 response, ranging from Hotel Quarantine, Airport and Border checks/closures and compliance checking businesses and community members. In recent times senior Police Officers have also had responsibility regarding the vaccination rollout.

Many more than the 10% have also been indirectly impacted by COVID-19 through managing policing responses during a pandemic under difficult circumstances.

The QPCOU recognises these are extraordinary times. The QPCOU has no issues regarding the minor amendments regarding quarantine and relevant directions.

The QPCOU does, however have an issue and strong objection to extending these temporary powers right through to 30 April 2022, more than nine (9) months away. This is contrary to recent messages and agreements announced from National Cabinet regarding the phased response to COVID-19 and less need going forward for lockdowns and other restrictions.

It is also contrary to the increased vaccination take up in recent times and the increased supply of vaccinations provided to every state each week. Whilst there are continuing and ongoing risks with COVID-19, these will continue to be mitigated and minimised going forward.

Extending the powers well into 2022 is also not a good message to the Queensland community in general. The QPCOU does support an extension beyond 30 September 2021 but only to the end of 2021, i.e. 31 December 2021. This is a prudent use of these very strong legislative powers and should not be extended more than necessary.



Dan Bragg
President
Queensland Police Commissioned Officers Union