

Dear members of the Economics and Governance Committee

The Labor government intends to extend the emergency powers granted to the Chief Health Officer to continue to impose restrictions pertaining to COVID-19. My concern is that these restrictions are in violation of *The Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1901*, in particular section 51 (xxiiiA), which speaks to the government being unable to authorise any form of civil conscription pertaining to medical services. The Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1901, Section 109 states... *When a law of a State is inconsistent with a law of the Commonwealth, the latter shall prevail, and the former shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be invalid.*

The seemingly out-dated democratic principles surrounding the need for public debate, transparency, and an accountable government, need to be upheld. It is concerning that this Amendment Bill to extend the emergency powers is virtually unknown to Queenslanders.

Furthermore, so far, the Queensland Labor government's roadmap to recovery appears to be more of a permanent state of "living with restrictions" rather than dealing with a COVID-infected world. I implore the members of this committee, and of our government, to commit to upholding the rights and freedoms of the citizens of Queensland, who belong to the Commonwealth of Australia.

Sincerely,

Denis Anderson

