

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Economics and Governance Committee](#)
Subject: Concerns Bill to extend emergency powers in Qld
Date: Tuesday, 6 July 2021 11:05:30 AM

I wish to lodge my concern regarding the following:

On 16 June 2021, right in the middle of 'Budget Week', the Minister for Health, Yvette D'Ath, tabled a new Bill extending the Public Health Emergency Response measures from 30 September 2021 to 30 April 2022.

The Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021 extends a range of emergency measures, including the extraordinary powers of the Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young.

These powers include the ability to impose restrictions on the free movement of citizens, their ability to travel, conduct a business, attend school, church or sport, as well as the power to issue mandates on mask wearing, social distancing rules, the numbers of persons who can gather at any one time, border closures, area lockdowns and quarantine mandates. I feel the response to Covid in this country is not proportionate. We are not listening to "the science".

The Bill also extends emergency measures, and creates new ones, for the care of mental health patients and persons with cognitive or intellectual disability, the operation of prisons and youth detention centres and related measures.

As far as I have been able to tell, no mention of the Bill, its contents or tabling last Wednesday has received a single mention in the media or state legal bodies.

This is something that warrants public discussion, if not debate, I would have thought.

Where is the public debate? Where is the transparency? And last but not least where is the accountability?

Restore democracy in Queensland

**TO: The Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly
of Queensland**

Queensland residents draws to the attention of the House that the Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill, tabled 16 June 2021, will extend Queensland's 'State of Emergency' powers and measures into a third year. There needs to be a public discussion on the great danger posed to Queensland's democracy by all these rolling emergency powers, lockdowns and abrogation of citizens' rights. Powers granted under emergency legislation are supposed to be exceptional and time-limited. After 18 months, there is no justifiable reason why the Government can't legislate for more reduced powers that allow Government to deal with the situation at hand while restoring many of the State's normal democratic processes. I request the House to:

1. Oppose the bill and request the Government prepare a new one that better

- reflects the paramountcy of Parliament and citizens' rights;
2. Make public, without redaction, all data, modelling and forecasts used by the Government in the decision-making process;
 3. End the overuse of delegated legislation, which override the usual checks and balances needed for a functioning democracy;
 4. End QR 'sign in' mandates for shops and businesses and allow people who are not at high risk from the virus, due to age or co-morbidities, to resume normal living;
 5. Normalise democratic processes and freedoms in Queensland.

Jo-anne Collins

