From:
To: Economics and Governance Committee

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

Date: Wednesday, 7 July 2021 11:52:08 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to voice my concern and objection to the proposed Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021.

Under the State's Covid-19 Emergency legislation framework, these emergency powers bestow enormous legislative and executive decision-making powers in the hands of a few, with no oversight, public debate or parliamentary scrutiny. This is NOT ok. You govern FOR the people, NOT OVER the people. You work FOR us, not the other way around.

Without any clearly defined exit strategy, there is also a real danger that the Government's use of these emergency powers and measures, will become normalised over time and eventually, permanent. This is NOT ok. You govern FOR the people, NOT OVER the people. You work FOR us, not the other way around.

Under the 'rule of law' model this country was founded on, any exercise of the Executive's regulation-making powers must be proportionate and reasonable, and strictly 'time limited'.

Maintaining an infection eradication strategy in Queensland – something that was never mentioned or discussed in the beginning - risks a future of economic impoverishment, endless snap lockdowns, disruptive travel restrictions, panic buying, rationing and routine draconian punishments for citizens exercising their democratic rights and freedoms. This is NOT ok. You govern FOR the people, NOT OVER the people. You work FOR us, not the other way around.

Queenslanders are now effectively being ruled by Executive Decree, with absolute power vested in an unaccountable Executive, and none of the usual 'checks and balances' essential to a functioning democracy. This is NOT ok. You govern FOR the people, NOT OVER the people. You work FOR us, not the other way around.

The people of Queensland need to be consulted and be provided the chance to voice their opinions, concerns, and objections. Don't we live in a democracy? The current government is behaving like a dictatorship. This is NOT ok. You govern FOR the people, NOT OVER the people. You work FOR us, not the other way around.

I urge Parliament to oppose it and prepare new legislation that better safeguards our system of government and the people's rights and freedoms.

Sincerely, Andrea Gayle Felix