PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION (FURTHER EXTENSION OF EXPIRING PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 2021

<u>FORM I SUBMISSION</u>

LIST OF SUBMITTERS

- Elizabeth Joanne Miller
- Lisa Henderson
- Melissa Samusamu
- Rebecca Ringuet

From:

To: Economics and Governance Committee

Subject: Re: Opposition to Queensland Bill to Extend Emergency Powers to 30 April 2022

Date: Thursday, 1 July 2021 10:02:27 AM

Dear sir,

Re: OPPOSITION TO THE NEW QUEENSLAND BILL EXTENDS EMERGENCY POWERS TO 30 APRIL 2022

As tabled by the Minister for Health, Yvette D'Ath, for a new Bill extending the Public Health Emergency Response measures from 30 September 2021 to 30 April 2022, I wish to oppose this Bill for the following reasons:

The 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.

By 30 April 2022, Queenslanders will have been living under 'state of emergency' conditions for more than two years, with every chance the date will be extended yet again, judging on past experience. This is something that warrants public discussion, if not debate, I would have thought.

From the time Queenslanders were first told we needed a 'short, sharp lockdown' to 'flatten the curve', the Government has released no 'exit strategy' or 'roadmap' for a way out of the current 'emergency' conditions – an 'emergency' which many agree, is starting to look ominously permanent.

The Bill was referred to the Health Committee by the Minister in the Speech, however it appears the Bill did not go to the Health Committee, but appears instead on the list for the Economics and Governance Committee. The Committee is due to report back to Parliament by 6 August 2021, and has called for submissions on the Bill by 5pm on Wednesday 7 July 2021, so only a week from today.

Sincerely,