

Public Health and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Management) Amendment Bill 2022

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Ms Renee Easten
Committee Secretary
Health and Environment Committee
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Dear Ms Easten

Subject: Inquiry into the *Public Health and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Management) Amendment Bill 2022*

Thank you for your correspondence inviting AMA Queensland to make a submission on the *Public Health and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Management) Amendment Bill 2022* (the Bill). AMA Queensland was also provided the opportunity to discuss the proposed amendments with Queensland Health's Legislative Policy Unit on 19 July 2022 as part of its engagement on the Confidential Consultation Paper.

Consistent with those discussions, AMA Queensland endorses the Bill's proposed step-down approach and requisite increase in safeguards and limitations on the exercise of the Chief Health Officer's (CHO) powers. We support the proposed amendments to repeal the power to issue public health directions concerning the closure of Queensland's borders; restrictions of movement and gatherings; and mandatory quarantine for international and domestic arrivals.

We also fully support the proposal to maintain the CHO's authorisation to issue public health directions about isolation and quarantine of diagnosed cases and symptomatic close contacts; and mask-wearing and vaccination of workers in vulnerable and high-risk settings. AMA Queensland views such powers as necessary for the ongoing management of the COVID-19 pandemic and protection of vulnerable Queenslanders.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Boulton'.

Dr Maria Boulton
President
AMA Queensland

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Dale'.

Dr Brett Dale
Chief Executive Officer
AMA Queensland