

Health and Environment Committee

From: Paul Slater [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 11 January 2021 4:49 PM
To: Health and Environment Committee
Subject: CMO sweeping powers Bill

Categories: Submission

Good afternoon,

I'd like to express my displeasure with the powers that have been granted to the CMO during the Covid Pandemic.

I don't believe that someone who is not an elected official can hold so much power to make calls that directly impact not only Queenslanders but also most Australians with Queensland ties.

I believe the opinion of the CMO should be taken into account with any decision making, but to have total power is just plain crazy. She is not qualified to make any economic / planning decisions which are having a negative impact on the state. Her position will always be worst case scenario as her role is not to take calculated risks.

This latest 3 day lock down is a classic example. The flow on effect with the Greater Brisbane area of closing business' and affecting travel plans for hundreds of thousands of people for 1 case which had not spread to 1 additional community transmission before the lock down was called.

What an extreme over reaction which turns out was for absolutely nothing. This new extreme UK mutant version of the virus which is supposed to be super contagious... Not a single case of community transmission. The UK is a vastly different situation to QLD - it's winter, the virus is out of control, people live much closer together.

"It's in 30 or 40 countries but it hasn't become the predominant strain in many of those," he said.

Professor Collignon said recent outbreaks in Sydney and Melbourne highlighted how it was possible to bring the virus under control without restricting people."

Isolated lockdowns and solid contact tracing is the way forward - NSW is a leading example of how to get on top of an outbreak.

We need to learn to live with this Virus and handle outbreaks without lockdowns. This would be made clear if you listened to anyone else who isn't a Doctor. Her decisions don't have an impact on her at all - it's not her job to think about things other than health.

The Covid situation in QLD is hardly an emergency anymore - there is no way you could seriously consider extending her powers.

Thanks for your time

Paul Slater