



13 January 2021

Committee Secretary  
Health and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Committee

**Re: Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2020**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information to your inquiry into the proposed *Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2020* ('the Bill').

As you know, Lung Foundation Australia is Australia's only national for-purpose organisation working to strengthen the lung health of all Australians and supporting those experiencing a lung disease.

Our national headquarters, housing the majority of our staff and our patient support specialists, is located in Brisbane, Queensland.

We believe the Queensland Government response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to date, has been and continues to be founded on the best available evidence and expert medical advice, and is delivered in the best interests of all Queenslanders.

We acknowledge, the success the Government has achieved in limiting the spread and impact of COVID-19 in Queensland. In part this is due to the agility and timeliness of the government in recognising what needed to be done and then doing it.

It is in this regard that we provide support for those measures set out in the Bill that strengthen the ability of experts to take timely and decisive action based on current and emerging evidence to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Queensland in 2021. In particular, Lung Foundation Australia support the measures that allow for:

- the Governor-in-Council to extend the declared public health emergency for up to 90 days,
- increased powers for emergency officers and the Chief Health Officer to limit, or respond to, the spread of COVID-19 in Queensland,

**FREE CALL**  
**1800 654 301**

Level 2, 11 Finchley St, Milton QLD 4064

PO Box 1949, Milton QLD

enquiries@lungfoundation.com.au | [www.lungfoundation.com.au](http://www.lungfoundation.com.au)



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- the chief executive to delegate their powers to the Chief Health Officer or a person with expertise or experience in public health issues and improving the operation of the provisions of emergency officers (medical) to support the Queensland Government's response to COVID-19.

We understand that these provisions are not new; they are the provisions that successfully guided Queensland through 2020. We understand that the Bill extends the original expiry dates of these provisions until the end of the day on 30 September 2021.

Thank-you for the opportunity to comment on the Bill. We stand ready to assist the Queensland Government in supporting or implementing any measures required to educate and inform Queenslanders of public health decisions that protect their health, livelihoods and traditions.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Brooke

Chief Executive Officer

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