

13 Jan 2021

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Committee Secretary
Health and Environment Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
Email: hec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,
this letter is a submission to the *Public Health and Other Legislation (Extending of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2020*. The government is here advised to immediately refrain from violating the Natural rights of the citizens of Australia.

For the last few hundred years, western democracies have distinguished themselves as unusually stable and successful, compared with other styles of government in the world (many of which also call themselves 'democracies'). The distinguishing feature of western (generally English-speaking) governments, has been that the scope of admissible actions available to these governments has been limited by the Natural rights of each citizen. These Natural rights include freedom of movement freedom of speech, and the rights to buy use and sell property.

These rights were described in the seventeenth century, by the leading Enlightenment physician and thinker John Locke, though the general notions, such as the right of passage, extend back much further into our history as English common law, and in Anglo-Saxon law. These rights inherent in our human nature, are described by various names: some say Natural rights, some say God-given rights, and some say inalienable rights. In any case, the point is that they precede politics, and are beyond the scope of government interference.

Free people set up governments for the sole purpose of protecting the Natural rights of each of the citizens. If a government fails in this task (either by being too weak, or too strong) then, as John Locke described, people are entitled to remove that government and replace it with another.

The recent 'lockdowns' and mandates of mask wearing enacted by the Queensland government are clear violations of the Natural rights of all Australians involved. These edicts should be immediately stopped.

Dr Matthew Dean