




Speech By  
**Joan Pease**

**MEMBER FOR LYTTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2021

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

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (4.44 pm): On 29 January 2020 the Queensland government declared a public health emergency under section 319 of the Public Health Act 2005 due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in China. The declared public health emergency was extended through regulation. Throughout 2020 the Legislative Assembly passed several pieces of legislation to amend the Public Health Act and the Mental Health Act to support the Palaszczuk government's response to COVID-19. Due to the rapidly evolving situation amendments were made either through urgent bills or amendments during consideration in detail, and sunset clauses were included so that the amendments were not permanent and could expire after a set date.

The Palaszczuk government has been a global leader in the health response to COVID-19 and we are the envy of the world. Queenslanders know that a large part of our success can be attributed to our Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young. By following Dr Young's health advice and giving her the emergency powers she needed, the Palaszczuk government has been able to respond to the COVID pandemic in a swift and decisive manner. If we did not provide emergency powers to the Chief Health Officer to issue directions to limit and respond to the spread of COVID I have no doubt that many more Queenslanders would have contracted the virus. This bill will allow the current legislative response measures implemented by the Palaszczuk government to continue. These powers have been critical to the success of the Palaszczuk government's health response, as they allow the implementation of requirements to restrict the movement of people and for people to enter hotel quarantine as and when necessary.

Ordinary Queenslanders have followed these guidelines. Each and every one of us has worked together, and I thank Queenslanders for that. Under the strong leadership of our Premier, the Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, we have followed the advice of experts and made decisions that, we acknowledge, are sometimes very hard; however, we Queenslanders know how to come together and do our bit for each other. Each and every day my baysiders come to me and say thank you. They ask me to say thank you to the Premier, Dr Young and the government for our response to this global pandemic.

Baysiders and I thank our amazing frontline workers, our emergency services officers, our health workers, our cleaners, our shoppies, our teachers and our school staff. Baysiders know how important it is for us to follow these guidelines. For example, yesterday Minnie Bowman popped into my office with a lovely big bunch of flowers to say thank you to the Premier. However, there is no thanks to the federal government. Baysiders see the Prime Minister's response for what it is: a dismal failure. Baysiders are coming to me to say they wish the Premier and Jeannette Young were in charge, because if they were we would not have a shortage of vaccines, our vaccination program would have been on track, and our quarantine facilities would have been built, providing a safe environment for returning Queenslanders and Australians.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Member for Southern Downs, cease your interjections.

**Ms PEASE:** Do you know what? I agree. I encourage all baysiders and all Queenslanders—in fact, all Australians—to get vaccinated. I have had both of my AstraZeneca vaccinations; so have my husband, my daughter and my son. I think it is really important that we all go out and undertake a vaccination program, because I agree that through vaccination we can come through this together.

I am very disappointed to hear those opposite. I still believe from some of the commentary that they are COVID deniers. We have seen what is happening around the world, we have seen people ill and dying. Encouraging and supporting people who do not want to be vaccinated? Come on! We need to get ahead in our vaccination program. We all have to go and get our vaccinations as soon as possible. We need the ability to respond to COVID-19, to minimise the impacts on our lives and to protect our lives and our livelihoods. I commend the bill to the House.