




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.07 pm): I rise to support the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2020. All Queenslanders have a vested interest in this bill, and so have I, as I have been engaged and observant in this bill as it has made its way through the parliamentary committee process and back to this House. While many of the contributions so far in this House have talked about the content, the process of the bill and the report, there was one section of the report that I found particularly perplexing and of particular interest and I want to shine some light on that right now.

I was stumped when I came across a five-page contribution, a complete dissenting report, from the member for Mirani in the report of the bill. It was not just the size of the contribution the member for Mirani made; it was in equal parts astounding and completely terrifying. It begins—

Domestic and international jurisprudence contain principles for law making during a public health emergency.

This instantly affirmed my fear that this was not a traditional statement of reservation from a committee member. Any reader can separate the member for Mirani's words from those just quoted. Any reader can see that this dissenting report is an outright attack from a political party—that of One Nation. My fears were further confirmed when a reliable witness used by the member for Mirani was none other than the climate change denying One Nation senator Malcolm Roberts.

These submissions are a direct attack on Queensland Health's response—the very health response that has saved lives and livelihoods here in Queensland. While over the last 12 months we have seen the LNP stoop to inconceivable lows—calling for the Queensland border to be opened 64 times, walking across hard interstate border closures and erecting billboards calling for planes to be able to arrive back once more in Queensland at the height of a global pandemic—let us not forget that the LNP are joined right down there with One Nation.

The party's leader, Pauline Hanson, was banned from TV outlets as she spewed misleading and inciteful misinformation, comparing COVID to the flu, calling for borders to be opened and the elderly and vulnerable to lock themselves away inside, and levelling vile and hurtful comments at Melbournians locked down in social housing towers. All One Nation have to contribute on this and every other topic, frankly, is the politics of fear, division and hate. Who could forget Pauline Hanson launching a High Court case against our CHO and Premier, crowd funding for legal counsel?

Mr Power interjected.

Ms BOYD: I take the interjection from the member for Logan: crowd funding for legal counsel.

Mr Power: The federal government was supporting it.

Ms BOYD: The federal government—Scott Morrison was absolutely supporting it. I also take that interjection. I could not locate what was the amount of money raised, but let us not forget also Pauline's promise to donate any unused money to charity. I have to admit, though, that a Google search with the

words 'funding, court case, Pauline Hanson and One Nation' provides a multitude of shocking and troubling results, taking us all on a trip down memory lane filled with disgrace, wrongdoing and of course Pauline's incarceration. They have no credibility and are not to be taken seriously on this topic.

Our exemplary public health staff are of course the heroes and heroines of this COVID pandemic. In the short time that I was privileged to be the assistant minister for health, appointed in the midst of the pandemic, it was an absolute honour to be able to personally thank and recognise our frontline staff. Over the course of 145 days I had 51 external meetings with the likes of hospital and health services, Queensland Health, the Chief Health Officer and all manner of stakeholders. I had 41 internal meetings and I went on 95 site visits. Every one of those days I was in awe of the courage, the dedication and the professionalism of our health workforce. When it comes to matters of public health, it is their advice we should follow. We should never politicise the health of Queenslanders or cherrypick which piece of advice we should follow or opt out of. That is what One Nation would have us do. That is what the LNP would have done if in government.

This week in particular as the vaccine commences its rollout, I understand that Queenslanders feel more at ease than they did one year ago. They feel that way because we always followed the expert health advice and we have successfully kept the virus at bay. They feel that way because of the provision of the powers in this bill and the bills before it. There still exists a grave risk. We need to manage it correctly. The measures in this bill will see that happen. Queensland's Chief Health Officer will see that happen and the Palaszczuk Labor government will see that happen. I commend the bill to the House.