




Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.51 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2020 that is before us. First, let me say that I know that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant disruption and upheaval to the lives of us all. It has been a very difficult time, with the impact on mental wellbeing yet to be fully understood. I acknowledge those who have lost their life and their families who have lost loved ones.

We must also realise that many have lost their livelihoods and that some businesses will not recover. COVID-19 has taken away many things from many people and it is only proper that this fact be recognised. Others in our community have come back stronger. They have reinvented themselves and, for some, their businesses are in a better place. We have all as members of this place remained acutely aware of these things dealing with and responding to our constituents over the past two or more years.

The LNP has carefully considered the detail of the government's Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022. We, the LNP, recognise that the provisions contained in this bill are extraordinary. They give an unprecedented power to the government with little to no oversight. Having said that, the position which Queensland now finds itself in is a very different one to when this House debated a similar extension in August last year. At that time the vaccine rollout here in Queensland was still ramping up. More than 90 per cent of our state's adult population has now received at least two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. My wife and I have received three doses and will be having the fourth dose at the earliest opportunity. We also encourage all of those around us to be vaccinated.

Indeed, as a local member when I respond to constituent inquiries my email contains several broad points and words to the effect that my preference is that every Queenslanders be fully vaccinated unless medical advice recommends against it. If constituents are unsure or concerned about vaccination, I recommend they consult their doctor to gain a better understanding and for their doctor to advise them in relation to whether or not to be vaccinated. I acknowledge that some among us choose not to be vaccinated for their own reasons and I respect their choice. I also advise constituents that we, the LNP, acknowledge that it is up to the medical experts to determine the health advice but that we will continue to call on the state government to increase transparency of the advice it bases its decisions on and improve its communication regarding the restrictions and directives which Queenslanders must abide by from time to time.

Looking to the future, it is the responsibility of government to provide a step-by-step road map grounded on expert advice that shows Queenslanders the path out of this pandemic. We were told things would be reviewed at 90 per cent. The government has sat on its hands and we still have no clear path. Queenslanders deserve to know what the plan is. It is for this reason that the LNP will move key transparency amendments to the bill. They have already been outlined by my colleagues and I will

not go through them again, but importantly the expert health advice that is received by the state government which is used as the rationale for implementing public health directions should be released publicly.

Our amendments will also establish a parliamentary committee which would routinely hold hearings with the Chief Health Officer to assess and scrutinise the health advice. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic the opposition has called for the public release of expert medical advice which is used as the rationale for the COVID-19 restrictions. A good government does not shy away from openness, transparency, accountability and scrutiny. However, this government has. It is time that changed and I urge all members to support the amendments proposed by the LNP that have been outlined.