

From: Melina Bath <Melina.Bath@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 31 August 2020 3:49 PM
To: bob_mann@thecommunityforum.com.au
Subject: RE: Your vote this week

Dear Bob,

Thank you for taking the time to contact me regarding Andrews Labor Government's intention to extend State of Emergency powers under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 for an additional 12-month period.

As Victoria battles COVID-19, the State of Emergency is the legal framework under which the current wide-ranging restrictions on people's lives and livelihoods including restrictions on leaving your own home, business closures, travel bans, quarantine arrangements and curfews are made.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Andrews Labor Government has been extending the State of Emergency in four-week blocks. However, the law states that there is a maximum six-month limit, with the current declaration due to expire [on 13 September 2020](#).

This week, the Andrews Labor Government wants the Victorian Parliament to pass a new law that will extend the maximum duration of state of emergency powers from the current 6 months to a potential 18 months.

The draft legislation gives effect to these proposed laws (which you can read [here](#)) – and the Liberal Nationals have many serious concerns!

As well as extending the maximum duration of a state of emergency from 6 months to 18 months, under the proposed new laws:

- a State of Emergency may still apply even if there are no active cases of COVID-19 in Victoria.
- the Chief Health Officer can take action to eliminate a serious risk to public health if he believes it to be 'reasonably necessary' rather than the current 'necessary' which represents a much lower threshold.

State of Emergency powers must only operate under appropriate safeguards, scrutiny and checks and balances.

Please be aware I am a Nationals MP not an Independent.

This proposed new law is unacceptable to the Victorian Nationals and we, with our Liberal colleagues will oppose it.

However, we can't do this alone. We need to let Members of Parliament from other parties know that there is genuine concern in the community about the length and breadth of these proposed new laws. Please continue your campaign by emailing the Independent MPs in the Legislative Council.

The Nationals will always stand for Victorians' rights and freedoms in the face of government overreach.

Take care
Kind regards
Melina Bath

Melina BATH MP

MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION

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A better deal

*for Eastern Victoria
Region*



From: bob_mann@thecommunityforum.com.au <bob_mann@thecommunityforum.com.au>

Sent: Monday, 31 August 2020 2:02 PM

To: Jeff Bourman <Jeff.Bourman@parliament.vic.gov.au>

Cc: Jaclyn Symes <Jaclyn.Symes@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Fiona Patten <Fiona.Patten@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Melina Bath <Melina.Bath@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Lee Tarlamis <Lee.Tarlamis@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Stuart Grimley <Stuart.Grimley@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Tania Maxwell <Tania.Maxwell@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Tien Kieu <Tien.Kieu@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Ingrid Stitt <Ingrid.Stitt@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Catherine Cumming <Catherine.Cumming@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Sonja Terpstra <Sonja.Terpstra@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Kaushaliya Vaghela <Kaushaliya.Vaghela@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Rod Barton <rod.barton@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Tim Quilty <Tim.Quilty@parliament.vic.gov.au>; David Limbrick <David.Limbrick@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Nina Taylor <Nina.Taylor@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Clifford Hayes <Clifford.Hayes@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Beverley McArthur <Beverley.McArthur@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Andy Meddick <Andy.Meddick@parliament.vic.gov.au>; Enver Erdogan <Enver.Erdogan@parliament.vic.gov.au>

Subject: Your vote this week

Dear State Representative,

This week you have before you a decision as to whether you will extend State of emergency powers to a Premier and a government that has lost control not only of the COVID-19 virus but the general governance of our state.

Our society now has

- People locked in their homes
- Businesses shutting down and going out of business
- People losing their jobs and livelihoods
- Children losing their school year
- Children & Adults losing their community sport
- Children losing their social interactions
- People committing suicide, young ones most tragically
- Our economy being trashed daily
- People losing their recreation activities
- People not being able to attend Weddings, Funerals and significant celebrations such as twenty-first birthday parties or baptism's
- People not being able to attend church and invoke their faith
- People being denied hospital treatment with deadly repercussions because they live a few kilometres on the wrong side of an imaginary line.
- People not being able to go for a weekend drive to the country and supporting country businesses
- People being subjected to overzealous policing including drones and visits to people's homes over social media comments

That's just of the top of my head. At what stage does the cure become worse than the problem? I would suggest that we are well past that point.

Last week I sent you all emails containing a table that Damian Coory (@DCoory) puts together to present data from the Federal Governments Health Website. This data surrounds this virus in a more concise manner that should be presented to the Victorian public on a daily basis as opposed to what we currently receive.

Have you looked at it?

If you have, how can you justify the continuation of these draconian lockdowns? You are destroying people's lives in a manner that this virus could only dream of. In fact, the greatest threat to our community isn't the COVID-19 virus, it is you, our government representatives and our totalitarian bureaucrats that present the greatest danger to us and yet now many of you are contemplating giving yourselves even more power with this extension of State of Emergency powers, no matter what the period of months it is for.

How about this instead? You all resign collectively, call an election to provide your strategies to return us to our previous selves and then let us decide how we want to live our lives. Do you have the courage, the conviction and the morality to do that? If not then you are a bunch of snivelling cowards. I challenge you to have the courage to raise that in parliament this week when you have the chance, as god knows when you may have another opportunity under this premier and government.

Our premier and his sycophants have had six months to get this virus under control and they have repeatedly failed in the most incompetent and shameful manner, what makes you think giving them another day, let alone another 6 to 12 months will make any difference?

Collectively you have put our community into an atmosphere of fear where you now have pitted Australian against Australian, Victorian against Victorian. Our current situation is both unacceptable and untenable going forward and we expect, no demand, that you resist any and all grabs for power and find a way for all of us to return to our previous way of life. I emphasise not a new COVID normal, we want our lives back, we want our city and state back, we want our great society back.

You are all morally bound to do so with sensible pragmatic measures, not the ones we currently live under.

If you cannot see an alternative course of action to what we are currently implementing. then have the dignity to resign so we can find some people who can.

Yours sincerely

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Virus-free. www.avg.com