1. Queensland’s public health response to COVID-19 has been swift and decisive throughout 2020. The management of outbreaks in the community has proven to be rapid and effective and the low rates of community transmission has enabled restrictions on the movement and gathering of people to be significantly eased.
2. However, there is still the potential for further outbreaks and restrictions, in some form or another, to need to be in place until a vaccine has been implemented worldwide. In summary, despite the strong response to date, the COVID-19 emergency remains ongoing.
3. As a result, the COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 includes amendments to, amongst other things:
4. set a new expiration date of 30 April 2021 or an earlier date to be prescribed by regulation for the COVID-19 related legislation which is still required to respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 emergency;
5. include appropriate transitional mechanisms so that when the extraordinary powers are no longer required, there is the ability to return to normal operations;
6. preserve rights and obligations that have accrued during the ‘response period’ and ‘extension period’ under the *Retail Shop Leases and Other Commercial Leases (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020*;
7. the *Electoral Act 1992* to facilitate COVID-19 related measures for by-elections after the 2020 State general election;
8. the *Youth Justice Act 1992* to allow the chief executive (youth justice) to delegate his or her powers to appropriately qualified temporary detention centre employees in the event of a future COVID-19 outbreak; and
9. the *Liquor Act 1992* to continue support for the boutique liquor sector by ensuring artisan distillers are able to sell takeaways of their own liquor.
10. Cabinet approved introduction of the COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 into the Legislative Assembly.
11. *Attachments*
* [COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)
* [Statement of Compatibility](Attachments/SoC.PDF)