1. On 29 January 2020, the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services declared a public health emergency in relation to the outbreak of COVID-19.
2. Following the *Public Health and Other Legislation (Public Health Emergency) Amendment Act 2020*, the COVID-19 Emergency Response Bill 2020 (the Bill) represents a second and whole-of-government response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. The Bill includes a legislative modification framework to ensure there is clear legal authority to make certain interventions, if needed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the community, facilitate our institutions and economy continuing to function to the extent possible in the circumstances of the pandemic, and to allow for timely and flexible responses in managing  disruptions caused by COVID-19 and social distancing measures.
4. The Bill provides a toolkit for addressing emerging issues that Government and the community is experiencing, and will continue to experience, during the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. The modification framework allows legislative requirements to be modified in the following areas should the need arise: statutory timeframes; proceedings of courts/tribunals; authorisation to take actions or do things electronically that would otherwise be done in person and/or in the physical presence of another person; authorities, licences or permits held by a person; financial matters; and prohibiting movement/access to premises/inspection of registers. This will be achieved through a secondary instrument (such as a regulation or notice).
6. The Bill provides for safeguards for the making of the extraordinary regulations and instruments under the modification framework, in that:
7. a power to make the instrument may only be exercised if it is for a purpose of the Bill – that is, to protect the health, safety and welfare of persons affected by the COVID-19 emergency; and to facilitate the continuance of public administration, judicial process, the supply of goods and services and other activities disrupted by the COVID-19 emergency, including by easing regulatory requirements and financial costs;
8. any instrument (including those that are not subordinate legislation) issued under the power, other than limited exceptions which deal with compliance with statutory timeframes for a particular individual, must be tabled in the Legislative Assembly, will be subject to disallowance and is to be published on a Queensland Government website; and
9. the arrangements will be time limited.
10. Cabinet approved the introduction of the COVID-19 Emergency Response Bill 2020 into the Legislative Assembly.
11. *Attachments*
* [COVID-19 Emergency Response Bill 2020](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)
* [Human Rights Statement of Compatibility](Attachments/SoC.PDF)