

Disaster Management (Further Extension of Disaster Situation–COVID-19) Regulation 2020

Explanatory notes for SL 2020 No. 53

made under the

Disaster Management Act 2003

General Outline

Short title

Disaster Management (Further Extension of Disaster Situation–COVID-19) Regulation 2020

Authorising law

Sections 72 and 148 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* (the Act).

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The purpose of the Disaster Management (Further Extension of Disaster Situation COVID-19) Regulation 2020 (the Regulation) is to further extend the period of the disaster situation declared for the whole of the State of Queensland on 22 March 2020 and extended by regulation on 2 April 2020.

On 12 March 2020, the World Health Organisation declared COVID-19 a global pandemic.

Under the Act, the Minister and the Premier may declare a disaster situation for the State, if satisfied a disaster is happening or likely to happen, for the purpose of preventing or minimising loss of human life or illness to humans. In response to the global pandemic, such a disaster situation was declared on 22 March 2020. The disaster situation was notified by Extraordinary Gazette.

Unless extended by Regulation pursuant to section 72, or declaration pursuant to section 72A, of the Act, a disaster situation ends 14 days after the day it was declared. On 2 April 2020, the disaster situation declared on 22 March 2020 was extended by regulation to 16 April 2020.

A further extension is required due to the longer term nature of COVID-19 and its potential impacts. Extension of the period of the disaster situation is necessary to ensure powers are available to appropriately address risk to the health of the Queensland community.

Achievement of policy objectives

The Regulation establishes a further 14 day extension period for the disaster situation.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The Regulation is consistent with the principles and objects of the *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The Regulation is consistent with the policy objectives of other legislation.

Benefits and costs of implementation

The Regulation further extends the period in which powers may be exercised to protect the Queensland community from the effects of COVID-19.

The Regulation will not result in any additional costs for the Government.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The Regulation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

In accordance with the Queensland Government Guide to Better Regulation, the Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) was consulted in regard to the regulation. OBPR has advised that the amendment regulation is excluded from regulatory impact assessment as it relates to an immediate response necessary to prevent injury to persons.