



## Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Assessment Summary

*The Triple Bottom Line Assessment is required to be published in accordance with Part 4, section 23 (1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2016*

### 20/196 - Public Health (Emergencies) Amendment Bill 2020

#### Summary of impacts:

- The Bill will enable the public health emergency declared in response to COVID-19 and any necessary extensions to operate for a much greater duration where required.
- This will remove the uncertainty for the ACT community that could be expected to arise from numerous short extensions.
- This in turn will give the ACT community certainty and confidence about the expected duration of the declared COVID-19 public health emergency, and by extension the duration of any public health measures (such as social distancing and prohibitions on mass gatherings) that may be imposed
- There are no significant economic or environmental impacts of the proposed changes.

Level of impact	Positive	Negative	Neutral
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Social		
Level of impact	Impact	Summary
Positive	Health (Community and mental health)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The very nature of a declared public health emergency is that it is declared in circumstances that pose a significant hazard to public health, and empowers actions to be taken in order to alleviate the risks to the health of Canberra community.</li> <li>• The changes proposed in the Bill will reduce the administrative burden placed on the Government due to the potential need for numerous short-term extensions to be declared for a public health emergency of a sustained duration (as can be expected in the event of a pandemic).</li> <li>• However, the changes will also give clarity and certainty to the Canberra community during the COVID-19 public health emergency through enabling extensions of up to 90 days, whilst still also requiring the Chief Health Officer to give advice to the Minister at least every 30 days about the status of the declared emergency.</li> </ul>

Neutral	Access to social inclusion/participation and community activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social inclusion and participation in community activities can be expected to be negatively impacted during a declared public health emergency.</li> <li>• Nevertheless, the amendments proposed by the Bill itself will have no direct impact on social inclusion. At present whilst the initial period of a declared public health emergency and subsequent extensions are short in duration, there is no limitation to the number of extensions that can be declared and therefore no limit on the overall duration of a declared public health emergency.</li> <li>• As such, the changes proposed in the Bill primarily amount to a temporary easing of an administrative burden on the Government itself.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Human rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A declared public health emergency can be expected to have engaged a number of human rights, although in many instances the human rights limitations and infringements are likely to be necessary and justifiable in order to protect the ACT community from the significant public health risks posed by the declared public health emergency.</li> <li>• Nevertheless, the amendments proposed by the Bill itself will have no direct impact on social inclusion. At present whilst the initial period of a declared public health emergency and subsequent extensions are short in duration, there is no limitation to the number of extensions that can be declared and therefore no limit on the overall duration of a declared public health emergency.</li> <li>• As such, the changes proposed in the Bill primarily amount to a temporary easing of an administrative burden on the Government itself.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Justice and Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A declared public health emergency can be expected to have justice and crime implications because failure to comply with an emergency direction of the Chief Health Officer during such an emergency is an offence.</li> <li>• Furthermore, measures taken during a declared public health emergency such as requirements for social distancing may also impact on service delivery of the justice system, such as jury trials.</li> <li>• Nevertheless, the amendments proposed by the Bill itself will have no direct impact on social inclusion. At present whilst the initial period of a declared public health emergency and subsequent extensions are short in duration, there is no limitation to the number of extensions that can be declared and therefore no limit on the overall duration of a declared public health emergency.</li> <li>• As such, the changes proposed in the Bill primarily amount to a temporary easing of an administrative burden on the Government itself.</li> </ul>

<b>Economic</b>		
<b>Level of impact</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Neutral	ACT Government Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A declared public health emergency can be expected to have justice and crime implications because failure to comply with an emergency direction of the Chief Health Officer during such an emergency is an offence.</li> <li>• Furthermore, measures taken during a declared public health emergency such as requirements for social distancing may also impact on service delivery of justice system, such as jury trials.</li> <li>• Nevertheless, the amendments proposed by the Bill itself will have no direct impact on social inclusion. At present whilst the initial period of a declared public health emergency and subsequent extensions are short in duration, there is no limitation to the number of extensions that can be declared and therefore no limit on the overall duration of a declared public health emergency.</li> <li>• As such, the changes proposed in the Bill primarily amount to a temporary easing of an administrative burden on the Government itself.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Employment and labour force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A declared public health emergency can be expected to have employment implications as a result of public health measures that may need to be taken, such as requirements for social distancing and prohibitions on mass gatherings.</li> <li>• Nevertheless, the amendments proposed by the Bill itself will have no direct impact on employment. At present whilst the initial period of a declared public health emergency and subsequent extensions are short in duration, there is no limitation to the number of extensions that can be declared and therefore no limit on the overall duration of a declared public health emergency.</li> <li>• As such, the changes proposed in the Bill primarily amount to a temporary easing of an administrative burden on the Government itself.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Small business impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A declared public health emergency can be expected to impact small businesses as a result of public health measures that may need to be taken, such as requirements for social distancing and prohibitions on mass gatherings.</li> <li>• Nevertheless, the amendments proposed by the Bill itself will have no direct impact on social inclusion. At present whilst the initial period of a declared public health emergency and subsequent extensions are short in duration, there is no limitation to the number of extensions that can be declared and therefore no limit</li> </ul>

		<p>on the overall duration of a declared public health emergency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As such, the changes proposed in the Bill primarily amount to a temporary easing of an administrative burden on the Government itself.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A declared public health emergency can be expected to impact on schools and education as a result of public health measures that may need to be taken, such as requirements for social distancing, prohibitions on mass gathering or even closing of schools.</li> <li>Nevertheless, the amendments proposed by the Bill itself will have no direct impact on social inclusion. At present whilst the initial period of a declared public health emergency and subsequent extensions are short in duration, there is no limitation to the number of extensions that can be declared and therefore no limit on the overall duration of a declared public health emergency.</li> <li>As such, the changes proposed in the Bill primarily amount to a temporary easing of an administrative burden on the Government itself.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Investment and Economic Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A declared public health emergency can be expected to impact economic activity in the Territory as a result of public health measures that may need to be taken, such as requirements for social distancing and prohibitions on mass gatherings.</li> <li>Nevertheless, the amendments proposed by the Bill itself will have no direct impact on social inclusion. At present whilst the initial period of a declared public health emergency and subsequent extensions are short in duration, there is no limitation to the number of extensions that can be declared and therefore no limit on the overall duration of a declared public health emergency.</li> <li>As such, the changes proposed in the Bill primarily amount to a temporary easing of an administrative burden on the Government itself.</li> </ul>