



# STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria  
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

## MEDIA RELEASE



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### Statement from Stuart Grimley MP on the State of Emergency Extension

Derryn Hinch's Justice Party will not be supporting a 6-month extension of the State of Emergency. As elected representatives, we owe it to those who voted for us (and even those who didn't) to explain the reasoning for the way we intend to vote.

**My preference is for a month-to-month extension of the State of Emergency.** The main reason is that accountability and oversight are integral principles of a parliamentary democracy. Derryn Hinch, our Party leader, spent years keeping the Federal Coalition Government accountable and that's what I intend to do at a State level. Therefore Government would be required to report back to Parliament as to why it is necessary to extend these monumental measures.

Whilst some might hope that there is *no* extension, this is unfortunately not an option for neither myself nor the Party. Without some extension of the State of Emergency, people wouldn't need to wear masks from mid- September and those who test positive wouldn't need to self-isolate. Nor would those awaiting test results. COVID-19 is going to be with us for some time; we must be realistic about that. However debate on these powers should also be mature enough to note the huge mental and economic cost of such historic powers.

I understand that the way that I vote will not please everyone. Of the 5,000+ messages and emails I've received, overwhelmingly they request that I don't support a 12-month extension, however most still vary greatly to the degree of the extension hoped for (ie not at all, 3-months, 6-months). For perspective, of the 5,000+ people who have contacted me, just a handful have favoured a 12-month extension.

Our Party holds two votes out of a Chamber of 40. This means whatever our desired outcome is, a majority of the Chamber needs to be in agreeance for it become a possibility; for it to become law. This is important to keep in mind, to remind everyone that just because we want something, doesn't mean we'll necessarily get it. **However, we can put our voices forward and hope that common sense prevails.**

Lastly, I just want to send my absolute best wishes to those who have lost jobs, have not been able to say goodbye to loved ones, and to those working on the 'last line of defence'. Victoria's best days are still ahead. We owe you everything.

We will get through this, Victoria.