

CORONAVIRUS — GOVERNMENT RESPONSE — BANKS

193. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. There is precedent for state governments to convene meetings with banks to discuss emergency responses—for instance, in times of drought. Does the Premier not agree that it is appropriate to meet here in person with the Western Australian heads of banks at the earliest opportunity to discuss the short and medium-term responses?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

It is a reasonable idea. The banks are regulated nationally and I have raised the matter with the Prime Minister. I will just have the member know that my diary is booked around the clock to deal with various issues to ensure that we have a functioning economy, a functioning public sector and a great health response. I am currently making lots of decisions and engaging with lots of people on all those matters.

In terms of the business community, of which the banks are a part, I have had numerous engagements and contacts in recent months to deal with this matter and to do the best I can by the business community in Western Australia. I will consider what the member has said about a formal meeting with banks, but I am confident that they are very aware of my views.