

CORONAVIRUS — INTERSTATE BORDER RESTRICTIONS — DETAINEES

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

I think the Minister for Police was going for the longest answer. There was a bit of a competition this week in terms of long answers.

The SPEAKER: He was not even close!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Okay!

I refer to the fact that detainees from the New South Wales Villawood Immigration Detention Centre have been relocated to Western Australia's Yongah Hill Immigration Detention Centre, which is located in my electorate of Central Wheatbelt.

- (1) Can the Premier confirm whether the State Operations Command Centre approved entry of these detainees into Western Australia?
- (2) Can the Premier advise whether the detainees met all the requirements of the state government restrictions imposed at 12.01 am on Tuesday for every person entering from New South Wales to have had at least one COVID vaccination and to return a negative PCR test 24 hours prior to travel?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(2) The member is right. I learnt of these detainees from Villawood detention centre in Sydney coming to Western Australia yesterday morning. Obviously, I sought to interrogate that information once I learnt about it. I understand that they had already arrived. The responsibility for the movement of these detainees is the commonwealth Liberal–National government. It has organised this. There is no requirement for the detainees to complete a G2G PASS declaration. The advice I have is that there were 19 or 20 of them. They were escorted by 40 to 42 Australian Border Force, customs or other officers, who took care of security on the aircraft. The advice I received this morning was that the security detail or the customs officers remained on the aircraft and flew directly back to Sydney. That was the advice I was given at the emergency management team this morning. We have sought further information from the commonwealth about this because I did not know. I await further information from the commonwealth about these issues.