

CORONAVIRUS — INTERSTATE BORDER RESTRICTIONS — TRANSITION PLAN

1166. Hon WILSON TUCKER to the minister representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the safe transition plan announced on 13 December.

- (1) Is the 5 February transition date contingent on a statewide 90 per cent vaccination rate?
- (2) If yes to (1), will the transition date be revised if projections for a 90 per cent vaccination rate change?
- (3) What is the currently projected date by which the regions of Pilbara, Kimberley and goldfields will achieve an 80 per cent vaccination rate?
- (4) Will lockdowns continue to be a method of COVID control as part of the safe transition plan?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. I answer on behalf of the Minister for Mental Health and provide the following response based on information provided by the Minister for Health.

- (1) No; the WA transition plan will occur regardless on 5 February 2022. However, if Western Australia does not reach 90 per cent double-dose vaccination of eligible persons by 5 February 2022, additional restrictions will be introduced for the unvaccinated.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Additional restrictions may be required in some at-risk regional communities where current projections suggest higher levels of vaccination may take longer to achieve. These temporary additional health and social measures for impacted regions are to protect the very vulnerable communities until a higher level of vaccination is reached to minimise the risk. These restrictions will be removed or stepped down once the required double-dose vaccination rate is achieved in the region, subject to the specific health advice at the time. I encourage all eligible Western Australians to go and get vaccinated now.
- (4) Public health and social measures may be scaled up or down based on updated health advice or rates of hospitalisation.