

CORONAVIRUS — NATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN — VACCINATION THRESHOLD

**414. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Premier, thank you. My question was: has the Premier sought advice from the Chief Health Officer as to what percentage of vaccination in WA will need to be achieved so that we can safely move to phase D? Surely there have been conversations around what percentage and modelling the Premier and the Chief Health Officer would accept as safe for us to move through to the final phase—as part of the conversation at national cabinet.

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

It will be a decision of the national cabinet, based upon advice from the Australian Healthcare Protection Principal Committee, and I expect having a look at the modelling provided by Doherty and other organisations. That is where the decision will be. That position has not been reached as yet. But I note that the Leader of the Opposition has put in place a matter of public interest motion today. I note that she has been attacking us in the media. It is groundhog day. We went through this all year last year. I had Liza Harvey. I had Zak Kirkup. I had Mike Nahan. I had Liberal and National luminaries attacking us over what we did to keep the virus out. I just want the Leader of the Opposition to understand a couple of things about this. We have had lockdowns this year of 12 days; that is the full extent of lockdowns this year in Western Australia. New South Wales at this point in time has had 61 days of lockdowns. Victoria has had 43 days. Queensland has had 21 days. Those are the most comparable states. That is because we did what had to be done. We put in place the measures that needed to be put in place.

How does the Leader of the Opposition think that New South Wales is currently coping with these big bailout packages from the commonwealth? Western Australia kept its industries open. We kept mining COVID-safe. We put in place the measures that allowed the commonwealth to fund New South Wales. Therefore, it actually would be more catastrophic had we followed the ideas and measures supported by the Liberals and Nationals and their friend Clive Palmer.

Fortunately, we did not. We had to fight the Liberals and Nationals, and Clive Palmer, in the High Court. I know members opposite run away from that now, but I went through all the activity behind the scenes, where people tried to get us to drop the case and give in to Mr Palmer. We refused. Had we given in to Mr Palmer and his immense wealth, as the Liberal Party wanted us to, this state would be in a catastrophic position, and so would the entire country. All I would say to the Liberals and Nationals is: support us and stop undermining us. You did that all last year and you saw the consequence of that in March.