

CORONAVIRUS — INTERSTATE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS — EXEMPTIONS

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

I refer to the case reported by the ABC on 29 July about the WA man who was refused a G2G pass to return to Perth while his wife was granted one, and to the increasing number of Western Australians who find themselves in a similar situation.

- (1) Does the Premier believe the 400 police currently assigned to assess these applications is adequate?
- (2) Given the ongoing state of emergency and restrictions in WA, will the Premier increase resources for the WA police to add to the personnel currently assigned to assess these applications?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(2) I am not aware of the particular case that the member is referring to, but I do understand that there have been some people who have been aggrieved and unhappy with the rules and the decisions put in place. It has not been an easy process. Lots of people have not enjoyed or have not been happy with the decisions made by police along this journey over the last six months. But we are doing it for the best of reasons, and we are doing it to protect the people of Western Australia. We now have had 130 days without a case of community spread of the virus in WA, and our border is a part of that. So although some difficult decisions have been made, the decisions have been made with the best interests of the health of the people of the state at heart, and they have been made in order to minimise risk. Around 400 police officers are working on this, and a whole bunch of health officials and personnel are working on it. We also have a small contingent of ADF working on it. I expect we will have more to say about the additional resources in coming days.