

CORONAVIRUS — MANDATORY VACCINATION POLICY

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

I have a supplementary question. The question was actually: when can we expect to see a road map that outlines a time line for safely reopening our borders now that the government has brought in mandatory vaccination for a large percentage of our population with dates attached to that?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Most of our borders are open. I will explain it to the opposition again. We are open to South Australia, the Northern Territory and, from Friday, Queensland and Tasmania. We are open. People can go there. You can go there, if you like. If you want to go to South Australia, go to South Australia, just get the G2G PASS. We are not open to Victoria and New South Wales because they are rife with COVID. We will set a date when it is appropriate to do so. What I do not want is to set a date that is wrong. We will set a date when it is right, which is based upon health advice and allows us to stay as safe as we can for as long as we can while we get our citizens vaccinated.

As I said to the Leader of the Opposition yesterday—this is very repetitive with the complaining she was doing yesterday—Queensland is opening to New South Wales and the like. If we did that and had COVID come in before Christmas, we could very well have restrictions on restaurants, cafes, bars, holidays, travel, mask wearing, all that sort of thing, over the entire Christmas holidays. I do not want to do that. I know some people are advocating for that. I do not want to do that. Imagine if that happens. Then the opposition would say, “Why did you allow the border to come down?” That is what it would do and that is what the press would do. A lot of journalists who are demanding we do it would suddenly say, “Why did you do that?” Governments have to be responsible. We have to make decisions based upon medical advice. We have to do the right thing by the people of the state, and that is what we are doing.