CORONAVIRUS — PREMIER — QUARANTINE

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

I refer to the Premier's self-imposed quarantine break when he returns from New South Wales after his court appearance.

(1)   Why is the Premier not following his own government's requirements for returning travellers to Western Australia?

(2)   Why does there seem to be one rule for the Premier and another for everyone else?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

(1)–(2)   I am required to go to Sydney because of a court case brought by Mr Clive Palmer, a former member of the National Party, who used to run Joh Bjelke-Petersen's campaigns in Queensland. I am required to go to Sydney because he has brought a legal action against me, which I will not comment on because, obviously, it is a matter before the courts. The original trial date was scheduled for later this month—I think it was 28 February or 1 March—and I was therefore required to go into quarantine until such a point in time that the border restrictions end. However, I provided advice last week that I would remain in quarantine for the full seven days on the basis that I did not want anyone to allege that somehow the date was manipulated in order to assist me. That position still stands. I do not want anyone to allege that. Obviously, there is a massive group of people out there looking for anything to say to be critical and I do not want to give them that opportunity to be able to say that, so I will quarantine for a week. I will work whilst in quarantine. I will attend Parliament via Zoom, as we now can. If I cannot Zoom into the national cabinet meeting, if required, I will come out for the national cabinet meeting and wear the appropriate personal protective equipment and attend via the audiovisual service in the government building that I normally do. I am just trying to set the right example here, making sure that I am consistent with what I have said before in what is a pretty extraordinary situation that was not of my creation.