

CORONAVIRUS — INTERSTATE BORDER RESTRICTIONS

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

Can the Premier confirm that the government is contemplating 1 February 2022 as the date for reopening our borders and whether restrictions like wearing masks and capacity limits for cafes, restaurants, arenas and stadiums will be part of the plan that Western Australians are all waiting to see?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

As I have said repeatedly, our borders are open to the Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania and Queensland, so when people say that the borders are not open, they are wrong. They are open to three-quarters of the landmass of Australia and people can freely visit; they just have to fill out a G2G PASS—that is all. That is the current situation.

In relation to Victoria, New South Wales and the ACT, at this point in time no decision has been made. But, obviously, we will continue to analyse. Our main aim is to get people's vaccination rates up as quickly as we possibly can.

I was at the opening of the expansion to Karrinyup Shopping Centre this morning with the members for Scarborough and Carine. It is a marvellous development—\$800 million worth; the investment is absolutely extraordinary—making it one of the biggest and best shopping centres in Australia. The investors there have taken a very strong vote of confidence in Western Australia. It is a marvellous development. But I tell you what, retailers in those shopping centres—the small businesses who want them—do not want to see COVID in Western Australia over the Christmas period. They do not want to have lockdowns. They are very keen not to have restrictions in place. I can confirm that is the case when I actually talk to people in business. I actually talk to people who run businesses. They are very keen to avoid that. That is what we are trying to avoid: keep good health outcomes in place, make sure that we do not have some of those terrible outcomes that we have seen over east occurring here over the Christmas period.