

CORONAVIRUS — INTERSTATE BORDER RESTRICTIONS

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

I have a supplementary question. The Premier mentioned keeping the border shut until reaching a high vaccination rate. Has the Premier asked for or received advice from the Vaccine Commander, the Chief Health Officer or Department of Health officials on whether his failure to set a date for reopening as part of a plan is impacting our vaccination rates; and, if so, will the Premier table this advice?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

The answer to that question is no. When the Leader of the Opposition refers to borders, I want her to understand that the international border is closed because the commonwealth government has put in place rules, and we support those rules. As of Friday, the interstate borders with Queensland, the Northern Territory, South Australia and Tasmania will not be in place, so people will be able to freely travel between those jurisdictions and here subject to the G2G PASS and other health measures—people will be able to freely travel. People cannot travel to New South Wales and Victoria. New South Wales has had 500 deaths and its economy was shut down. At the AFL grand final, I was talking to Gill McLachlan, and he said his kids had not been to school for months on end. Melbourne was in lockdown for months on end. People had not been going to work. I note that today in Sydney, some cafes are opening and they are allowed to have 50 per cent capacity and everyone over there is really excited by that. That is good for New South Wales; that is great. I am happy for New South Wales and I am happy for Victoria, but here we do not have any restrictions in place because we have put in place measures to stop the virus coming in. I really do not get how the opposition does not seem to understand that, and has not understood it for the last two years. Some of the commentary from the east proves that they do not get it, but that is our plan whilst we vaccinate. Our vaccination rate goes up every single day by about 0.6 per cent as we roll through communities and put in place new innovative measures to get the population of Western Australia vaccinated to very high levels. We will continue to do that to keep the people of this state safe.