

CORONAVIRUS — HEALTH MODELLING

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

I have a supplementary question. Thank you, Premier; I have read the health advice relating to the announcement you made today.

Mr D.J. Kelly: Is that a question?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I do not need your help, Minister for Water—I absolutely do not.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Water, you do not have the call. Please do not interrupt.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: The question was: why is the Premier refusing to release health modelling that has been provided to the government in relation to the impact of COVID coming into the state?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

There is always ongoing work because the situation changes over time. I note that a range of advice from the commonwealth, through the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, has been provided and released regularly. But it is modelling; it is an estimate. When the Doherty advice has come out, it has shown that if states open too early, large numbers of people will die and the hospitals could potentially be overrun in all states of Australia, as they have been in New South Wales and Victoria, and there would be terrible economic outcomes as well, which is the Treasury advice on these things. We will table all this—the information upon which we rely—in due course when we set a date for New South Wales and Victoria.

I understand it is difficult for some people. As I said, it is difficult for me. But I actually think that 95 per cent of Western Australians would prefer not to have COVID deliberately imported into Western Australia prior to having a very high level of vaccination. That is my view of where the public is at. Clearly, the Liberals and Nationals have a different view by the tone of the member's question, as they have had over the course of the last two years. If the Liberals and Nationals had had their way, we would have had the New South Wales situation. Have a look at it. I just say to the people of Western Australia: thank God we did not go there.