

CORONAVIRUS — INTRASTATE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

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

I have a supplementary question. Could the Premier explain what burden of proof will be required for people to meet those exemptions and what penalties will be applied to those who are unable to comply with the requirements?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

It will very much be a commonsense approach on the part of police. The Commissioner of Police understands that this has to be handled sensitively. He has provided advice to police officers to handle this matter sensitively and in a commonsense manner. The view being expressed, which I agree with, is that people who are travelling for work would have some evidence of the fact they might be working somewhere, whether that is a letter or an ID—something that demonstrates that people are travelling for work. We do not want people to flout the rules; at the same time, we do not want to make it too difficult. There will be commonsense implementation based upon some evidence. I have had some cases brought to my attention of people who might be travelling to ensure that they can exchange their children with their spouse or former spouse, and clearly there will be obvious opportunity to provide some evidence. When it is compassionate grounds, I expect that police will apply a very much commonsense approach.

I say to the members of the National Party that this is very regrettable. The idea that we are doing this is very, very regrettable. If someone had asked me a month ago whether I would be putting up boundaries between the regions and putting a hard border between Western Australia and the eastern states, no-one would have believed it was even conceivable. But the world has moved, and we have moved to ensure that we protect ourselves as best we can. The health minister announced today that, according to the testing, we have nine new cases in Western Australia. That is a good result, but we do not want to rest on our laurels. This is not the end; it is just part of the ongoing process of dealing with this issue.