

CORONAVIRUS — INTERSTATE BORDER RESTRICTIONS

**34. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Why does the Premier continue to refuse to provide information to Western Australians who are waiting to understand the basis of the decisions that he is making on their lives and livelihoods, and why will he not share that information with the public of Western Australia?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

It is the subject of a review by health professionals that will provide us with that information. I will take the Leader of the Opposition through this again, because I say these things so often; I explain it to the opposition, and then the member asks me the same question again. I get this a lot, not just here.

On 20 January, when I did the press conference, I said we would review this matter over February. That is what we are doing currently. We are reviewing it on the basis of a cautious, sober approach to a serious problem that is causing all sorts of issues in the eastern states. Once we get the review, we will be able to set a date, and that date will obviously be at some point in time in the future. There is a lot of heat and anger about this, and I just remind people: we are trying to save lives and save jobs. I take members back to the budget or perhaps the midyear review last year. Our tourism industry in Western Australia has actually been incredibly strong, and one of the warnings that was contained within the budget or perhaps the midyear review was that when international borders opened, there would be major economic impacts that would be negative for Western Australia. I ask members to just remember those things. I think some of the commentators, particularly from some of the industry groups, do not really realise that once international borders open and Australians can travel freely overseas, there will be some serious economic impacts. We outlined that in the budget, and some of the spending power in retail, hospitality and the like, and also in local tourism, will go down because in ordinary years, Western Australians are net exporters when it comes to tourism spend. In other words, we spend more overseas than international or interstate tourists, or both, spend within Western Australia.

All these things will be things that will happen in the future. They are not relevant to the review, but I thought I would make that point to some of those people out there who think that somehow there is going to be some major, massive economic uplift. They do not really understand what is coming, particularly when more cases come into Western Australia. Obviously, the public health social measures will increase. Again, some people understand that, but some people do not understand that some of the impacts—not just health, but also economic impacts—are not going to be an upside for Western Australia.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, that concludes question time.