

CORONAVIRUS —OMICRON MODELLING

**12. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:**

I refer to the Premier's comments that there is no reliable modelling at this point in time when referring to Omicron, and that the Premier will not release incomplete information as it is not useful.

- (1) What modelling has been undertaken by the WA government on Omicron?
- (2) When did this modelling commence; when will it be finalised; and when will it be released to the WA public?
- (3) Why has the WA government been unable to undertake the timely release of Omicron modelling when jurisdictions such as New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland have?
- (4) With no Omicron modelling, what was used by the McGowan government to support the decision regarding indefinitely delaying the border opening and imposing further community restrictions?

**The PRESIDENT:** Before I give the call to the Leader of the House to reply to that question, honourable member, I will just remind you that in terms of the motion that has just been passed by the house, when you are asking questions or speaking, you need to go to the lectern.

**Hon Neil Thomson:** Sorry, I missed that.

**The PRESIDENT:** Thank you.

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(3) Work on modelling is ongoing and will be released publicly once it is complete. Part of the Department of Health's ongoing work consists of receiving up-to-date data and analysing the ongoing spread of the Omicron variant throughout other jurisdictions, including the eastern states.
- (4) As the Premier outlined, this decision was made upon the latest health advice. This included the extraordinary speed at which Omicron spreads, surging hospitalisation rates and increasing death rates in other jurisdictions. The decision to delay the opening allowed WA to deliver a higher third-dose rate, unlike anywhere else in the world, which would help reduce the loss of life, save jobs and minimise disruption in our community and economy.