

Question on Notice
No. 402
Asked on 22 April 2020

Mr S Andrew asked Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Government and the LNP Federal Government's response to COVID-19 and acknowledging that people are anxious, afraid and are grieving for the loss of their jobs and the downturn of the economy—

Will the Premier advise what the plan is going forward and what data the government is holding and how it will affect (a) what will be done, (b) why will it be done (data), (c) how long it will take, (d) what will it cost financially, socially, emotionally and mentally?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government acknowledges the health, economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the lives of Queenslanders.

The Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic is well documented and publicly available on the Queensland Government's website: www.covid19.qld.gov.au. This website is continually updated to ensure the public remains informed of the measures in place to support them during this time, as well as details of the Government's response to the outbreak and the actions underway toward recovery.

The Queensland Government remains committed to transparency of data used for decision making. This includes data on the epidemiology of the pandemic (i.e., disease spread), as well as public health capability (contact tracing and testing), health system capacity (hospital capacity, Intensive Care Unit capacity, availability of personal protective equipment) and community adherence to measures. Information on these matters is released in Government media statements and through regular news conferences, including by myself, key Cabinet Ministers and Queensland's Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young. Detailed information and data, including a breakdown of cases by Local Government Area, are also available on the Queensland Health website: www.health.qld.gov.au.

In addition to Queensland specific data, the Queensland Government is also working through the National Cabinet to consider expert public health advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC). The data and advice from the AHPPC are used to help inform National Cabinet decisions and are available on the Federal Government Department of Health website: www.health.gov.au.

On 8 May 2020, National Cabinet announced a three-step framework for easing restrictions, based on advice from AHPPC. The framework assists with national coordination, while providing flexibility for States and Territories to make decisions adapted to jurisdictional circumstances. Also, on 8 May 2020, I announced the Queensland Roadmap for easing restrictions, which is a step-down approach with a minimum of four weeks between stages. The Queensland Roadmap is available on the Queensland Government's COVID-19 website. In addition, key metrics to support ongoing decision making on the relaxation of restrictions are also available on the Federal Government's Department of Health website.

While protecting the health of Queenslanders is the number one priority, the Queensland Government knows extra support is absolutely needed to help workers and businesses get through what is one of the most difficult periods ever experienced.

The Queensland Government recently passed the *Appropriation (COVID-19) Act 2020*, to enable the Treasurer to draw emergency funds over the next two years to support our \$4 billion health and economic relief and recovery package. Additionally, work is underway to develop a recovery plan to accelerate infrastructure works and job supporting initiatives across Queensland.

The Queensland Government will provide details of plans as they evolve and keep Queenslanders informed so they can prepare and act accordingly.