

Question on Notice
No. 872
Asked on 18 June 2021

Mr P Weir asked Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

Will the Premier provide the details of the Queensland Government's management plan for the proposed quarantine facility at Wellcamp?

ANSWER:

My Government is committed to protecting the health, safety and livelihoods of all Queenslanders during this unprecedented global health pandemic.

While Queensland's hotel quarantine system has been operating well and is subject to continuous improvement processes, our hotels are not designed to operate as long-term, fit for purpose quarantine facilities. Given the highly contagious COVID-19 variants, including the Delta variant, fit for purpose dedicated purpose-built quarantine facilities are essential to ensure the safe, long-term operation of quarantine systems, and continue Queensland's successful response to the COVID-19 global health pandemic.

Our proposed quarantine facility near Wellcamp Airport, Toowoomba is designed to operate according to guidelines based on the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee's National Hotel Quarantine Principles, recommendations from the Halton National Review of Hotel Quarantine, the joint agency review of the COVID-19 infection of a hotel worker (Hotel Grand Chancellor), infection prevention and control best practice, and the operational guidelines, policies and procedures that underpin Queensland's hotel quarantine system.

On 4 June 2021, I provided a further detailed information to the Prime Minister, the Honourable Scott Morrison MP. While the detailed proposal is with the Prime Minister for consideration and noting it is commercial-in-confidence, I am not currently in a position to share the proposal details further.

However, I can assure the member that the Queensland Government considers the proposed facility at Wellcamp Airport a viable and effective quarantine option that is able to be rapidly implemented. If the Commonwealth decides to support this already designed facility proposed for Wellcamp Airport, Queensland could have a fully-functioning, purpose-built quarantine facility built within months.

The member would also be aware that the Queensland Government has accepted the Commonwealth Government's offer to investigate a potential quarantine facility site at the Damascus Barracks in Pinkenba, near to the Brisbane Airport. Both governments are working to progress a suitability assessment of the site for quarantine purposes.