

Question on Notice
No. 977
Asked on 1 September 2021

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent decision by Justice Richard White of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, that National Cabinet is not subject to secrecy provisions—

Will the Premier release copies of all advices she received from the AHPPC in relation to lockdowns and border closures?

ANSWER:

National Cabinet has been an integral aspect of Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and demonstrates the importance of continued intergovernmental collaboration across health, social and economic responses.

In accordance with section 8, paragraph 155 of the Commonwealth Cabinet Handbook (14th Edition), Queensland respects that documentation of the National Cabinet remains strictly confidential.

On 5 August 2021, Justice White of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal handed down their decision in *Patrick and Secretary, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (Freedom of Information)* [2021] AATA 2719. I understand Justice White's decision was decided in relation to various pieces of Commonwealth legislation, including the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth).

I understand the Federal Government has introduced legislation to federal Parliament to extend FOI exemptions to the deliberations and decisions of the National Cabinet.