



Premier of Queensland
Minister for Trade

For reply please quote: SocPol/SK – TF/21/3745 – TF/21/36360

04 MAR 2021

The Honourable Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of Australia
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CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Dear Prime Minister

As our nation contends with new and highly infectious strains of coronavirus (COVID-19), we must continue to work in partnership to examine and consider every possible measure to keep people safe. It is important that we explore sustainable and effective ways to manage the ongoing and evolving risks presented by this pandemic.

Further to my letter of 29 January 2021 and our earlier discussions, I write regarding the Queensland Government's ongoing consideration of the establishment of a regional non-hotel COVID-19 quarantine facility at Wellcamp Airport, Toowoomba.

The proposed quarantine facility at Wellcamp Airport provides a unique opportunity for both the Queensland and Federal Governments to work together to expand the capacity and increase the safety of the national quarantine network. Such a facility would allow the repatriation of more Australians, using a site and design that could provide effective protection for the Queensland community.

The proposed facility at Wellcamp Airport could operate on a similar model to the Howard Springs facility in the Northern Territory, including the critical safety measure of staff being accommodated on site. This safety measure, as well as direct international flights into Wellcamp Airport, could significantly reduce the risk of a COVID-19 community outbreak, particularly from the highly infectious strains of the United Kingdom, South America or South Africa.

I appreciate the cooperation from your department in working to progress the proposal with officials from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. However, it is not in the interests of Queenslanders that we continue to put resources into progressing to the detailed collaborative planning phase while threshold feasibility issues remain unresolved.

I appreciate that your department has now confirmed the Federal Government's willingness to progress to market testing to assess airline interest in flying into the Wellcamp Airport and to provide appropriate Federal Government officials to enable the facility to function. However, the matter of Federal Government financial support remains outstanding.

It is critical that we receive the Federal Government's specific commitment to provide funding support before progressing to approach the airline industry, as this is fundamental to the economic viability and ongoing sustainability of such a venture.

Queensland cannot progress with further detailed planning until a clear undertaking is received from the Federal Government to provide funding on similar terms as provided for under the *Provision of COVID-19 Quarantine Arrangements at the Northern Territory Centre for National Resilience for Organised National Repatriation of Australians* Federation Funding Agreement variation.

I believe the Howard Springs agreement provides a clear precedent and a sound basis to develop a funding model between the Queensland Government and the Federal Government for a facility that performs the same functions as that in the Northern Territory.

I can advise that the Wagner Corporation proposal includes building standard workforce-style accommodation with 1000 quarantine rooms and 300 rooms for onsite staff accommodation, as well as various facilities to support the operation of the facility (including kitchen, administration, communications, etc). The Queensland Government has received an initial quote from the Wagner Corporation, however the cost is expected to increase significantly once health and security considerations have been factored into the facility design.

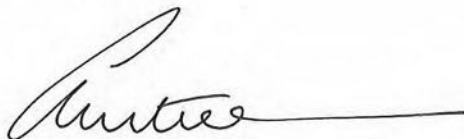
The Queensland Government will also contribute significant resources required to operate the facilities, including security, health and mental health support, and other critical support functions. These have not yet been fully costed but will also require Federal Government funding support.

The minimum operational term for the Wellcamp Airport is one year. If the project is to proceed, I expect it will be operational from mid-2021 to mid-2022. For the facility to be financially feasible, it is important a funding commitment from your Government is for the full term of the agreement.

Without a clear and sufficient Federal Government funding commitment over this period, it is not possible for the Queensland Government to make any commitment to this facility and bring home more Australians safely.

I look forward to your advice about the Federal Government's funding commitment as soon as possible so our officials can move into collaborative detailed planning for this important initiative to strengthen Australia's quarantine system.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annie', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND
MINISTER FOR TRADE**

s22



From: Frame, Alison
Sent: Monday, 22 February 2021 11:20 AM
To: mark.cridland@premiers.qld.gov.au
Cc: Arnold, Debbie <Debbie.Arnold@pmc.gov.au>; rebecca.mcgarrrity@premiers.qld.gov.au;
jessica.collins@premiers.qld.gov.au
Subject: RE: Regional Quarantine [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Mark,

Thank you for the below information and our ongoing discussions.

As previously flagged, please find attached an outline of the Commonwealth's threshold factors that we indicated during our meeting on Thursday.

We will ensure the information you attached to your email is provided to the relevant Commonwealth agencies. Please let me know when you would like to meet to discuss next steps.

Regards,
Alison

From: Mark Cridland <mark.cridland@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 19 February 2021 11:33 AM
To: Frame, Alison <Alison.Frame@pmc.gov.au>; Arnold, Debbie <Debbie.Arnold@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: Rebecca Mcgarrrity <rebecca.mcgarrrity@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Jessica Collins <jessica.collins@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Cabinet in Confidence - Regional Quarantine

Hi Alison

Thank you to you and your colleagues for their participation in the Wellcamp Working Group meeting yesterday.

It was very helpful to agree on the key feasibility issues to be overcome before detailed collaborative planning between the Commonwealth and Queensland can occur to develop a fulsome proposal. I am sure you are as cognisant as I am that it is not in the interests of Queenslanders that resources are diverted to detailed planning until the basic feasibility of the proposal has been established.

As outlined below, from a Queensland perspective we require assurances from the Commonwealth in relation to flights, airport suitability, funding and staffing. Thank you for your commitment to provide a letter outlining the Commonwealth's position in relation to these key feasibility issues. In order to progress to the detailed planning phase it will be important for Queensland to have a written commitment that the Commonwealth is willing to undertake the necessary processes to bring flights into Wellcamp Airport (noting your advice that this might include a market testing exercise) and provide adequate staffing for the facility. Similarly, a clear understanding of the Commonwealth's proposed funding contribution is critical to progressing the proposal.

I appreciate the Commonwealth's acknowledgement that, while important, the detailed health operational planning already underway can continue to be addressed as we progress noting the priority is to resolve the basic feasibility questions. Notwithstanding this, please find **attached** further information about the health aspects of the Wellcamp proposal for your information. As I mentioned, Queensland is already running a high quality hotel quarantine system and would of course establish and run any regional quarantine facility to the highest standard and in accordance with the *Guide to establishing health services at Commonwealth supported quarantine accommodation*, the *AHPPC statement on Australia's National Hotel Quarantine Principles* and the recommendations of the *National Review of Hotel Quarantine*.

Thanks again for your collaboration to date, and I look forward to finalising these issues in the near future.

Kind regards



Mark Cridland

Deputy Director-General

Policy Division

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

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Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ANDREW FISHER BUILDING
ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT
BARTON

Dear Mr Cridland *mark*

Thank you for your department's ongoing dialogue with the Commonwealth on the Queensland Government's proposed alternative quarantine arrangements for international arrivals. As discussed, the Commonwealth is committed to reviewing options to increase Australia's quarantine capacity and working collaboratively with the Queensland Government to achieve this shared goal.

As outlined in these discussions, both Queensland and Commonwealth officials have shared a range of information to assist with determining the feasibility for a formal proposal. We understand Queensland has three specific issues that require Commonwealth assurances in order to move forward on these proposed alternative arrangements. These have been addressed below.

There are a number of critical Commonwealth threshold factors that shape the assurances we are able to provide:

- The arrangement at Wellcamp must be above the Queensland passenger arrival cap of 1300 per week (which includes the 300 passenger per week surge capacity) which will continue to operate for arrivals into Brisbane and Cairns;
- The Commonwealth cannot direct airline carriers to land at particular airports. Further unlike the Howard Springs facility in the NT, particular caution must be exercised in jurisdictions where there are international passenger arrival caps in place, given the commercial regulatory framework and increased legal risk incurred by any passenger arrivals outside of the caps;
- To provide any assurances regarding flight supply to Wellcamp through government facilitated flights, the Commonwealth would be required to conduct an open tender process to all airlines;
- Interest of new airlines flying to Wellcamp may be affected by the lack of an existing air traffic control tower at the airport;
- A three year commitment would not be possible. The Commonwealth would only be able to agree to a bilateral agreement regarding Wellcamp up to the end of 2021. Any commitment beyond this would need to be reassessed in December 2021;
- The Queensland Government will retain operational responsibility for the facility under relevant state legislative authority;

- Engagement with the Toowoomba community will be managed by Queensland government.


The Commonwealth will provide assistance through the Australian Defence Force, Australian Border Force, Australian Federal Police and other official workforces as required, noting the scope of assistance cannot be confirmed until a formal proposal is received.

Final advice from Commonwealth aviation and border agencies requires a formal operational proposal being made by the relevant airline and airport operator as to the nature and details of the planned international airline passenger services into the airport. A range of preliminary advice has already been provided.

Noting the above threshold factors we will continue to work with your team pending any decisions from the Queensland Government regarding feasibility. If there is any information you require please don't hesitate to ask. I think we have made great progress in understanding some of the baseline requirements.

Yours sincerely

s22



Anson Frame
Deputy Secretary
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

22/02/2021

From: Mark Cridland <mark.cridland@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 19 February 2021 11:33 AM
To: Frame, Alison; Arnold, Debbie
Cc: Rebecca McGarrity; Jessica Collins
Subject: Cabinet in Confidence - Regional Quarantine
Attachments: Further Health Advice - Queensland Government Toowoomba Regional Quarantine Proposal.docx

Hi Alison

Thank you to you and your colleagues for their participation in the Wellcamp Working Group meeting yesterday.

It was very helpful to agree on the key feasibility issues to be overcome before detailed collaborative planning between the Commonwealth and Queensland can occur to develop a fulsome proposal. I am sure you are as cognisant as I am that it is not in the interests of Queenslanders that resources are diverted to detailed planning until the basic feasibility of the proposal has been established.

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Thanks again for your collaboration to date, and I look forward to finalising these issues in the near future.

Kind regards



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Queensland Government Toowoomba Regional Quarantine Proposal

Commonwealth Government Request for information – Further Queensland Health Advice

The information provided below is further to the information previously provided to the Commonwealth Government regarding this proposal. This previous information provided to the Commonwealth by the Queensland Government and the Wagner Corporation focused on the operational capabilities of Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport, the potential impact on existing operations, the current and future airport facility capabilities (including for customs, immigration, and biosecurity), airport safety, international passenger caps, passenger transport arrangements, and the nature of the quarantine facility site.

General Health Information

Would a medical facility be constructed as part of the quarantine facility?

As previously advised, this is being considered as part of the detailed health planning underway. Qld Health has indicated that they have not, at this stage, requested the Wagner Corporation include a patient facility on-site to treat COVID or non-COVID issues, though a facility could be included at the selected site.

Qld Health policy is that:

- all COVID-19 positive patients are transferred to a tertiary hospital by Queensland Ambulance Service (QPS) or aeromedical retrieval provider
- quarantine guests requiring emergency health care are transported to hospital by QAS
- all other routine health care e.g., GP consult, pharmacy support or wound care, is provided via telehealth
- collection (COVID-19 test swab) occurs in the doorways of guest's room (with appropriate PPE).

While Qld's preliminary position is for the quarantine facility to not include a comprehensive medical facility, Qld supports the incorporation of a space in the facility design for the treatment of minor injuries and illness, an area for health workers to undertake administrative tasks and a space where staff can have their COVID-19 tests.

Please outline how the operation of the facility would meet and maintain best practice standards, including performance standards outlined by the AHPPC and the National Review of Hotel Quarantine.

Qld is committed to ensuring best practice standards are maintained, as we have been done in the 74 hotels that have been engaged to date in our hotel quarantine program. As outlined previously, the regional quarantine proposals have been tested by Qld Health officials to ensure that it accords with best practice regarding infection control processes and procedure, specifically ensuring that we are minimising risk of exposure to COVID-19.

Both Qld Health and the national group under the direction of AHPPC are revising their end-to-end policies in relation to quarantine services. This will outline the required logistic and infection control operating procedures. These are in draft at the current time. Once finalised these would provide guidance to Wagner Corporation with the expectation that they are met.

Please outline Queensland's plan to separate residents according to risk and those in vulnerable groups.

Qld is in the process of confirming the system for managing risk and vulnerable groups with the Wagner Corporation. This will be dependent on confirmation from the Commonwealth on how many international arrivals Wellcamp Airport can receive per week.

It is planned that residents with particular risks (e.g., chronic health conditions at risk of rapid deterioration, people with high care health or disability needs) can continue to be accommodated at the current 'medi-hotel'. This model allows for additional support to be provided to guests.

Qld Health will be actively involved in the final design process and can confirm that Qld will not support the use of shared facilities.

Medical support

What would be the clinical workforce makeup? Is there available and sufficient clinical workforce within the Queensland health system?

This cannot be fully outlined by Qld until the Commonwealth has provided confirmation on the number of arrivals per week into Wellcamp Airport. Qld Health are proposing that there will be a team required for each 'pod' (that is, for each 100 rooms). s47C

Qld is proposing the facility will be staffed with a mix of medical, nursing, and allied health staff, including mental health staff. Some staff would be onsite as required, with others providing services via telehealth or online.

What plans are in place should the hospital/ICU at Toowoomba be at capacity?

As the options for regional quarantine proposals are still being developed, detailed planning has not yet been undertaken with Toowoomba Hospital and Health Service (HHS). However, preliminary consideration indicates that should the proposal progress, the Toowoomba HHS would need to establish a separate flow for guests including Qld Ambulance Service transport, emergency department reception, and holding of guests in negative pressure rooms, which Qld Health will help facilitate. However, given the complexity of disease it is likely the guest would need to be relocated to Brisbane for care. This will preserve ICU capacity at Toowoomba HHS.

What plans are in place to ensure individuals have access to mental health support?

Qld Health is proposing to run the same mental health support that is currently operational in the hotel quarantine model. This is primarily via telephone or video links – a well-established and effective model used across Qld to provide mental health support.

The system is well-established and includes the screening of guests on arrival into hotel quarantine, with a follow up during their stay. There is an ability for the Venue Health Manager to escalate any issues or concerns through the relevant mental health service as required.

What plans are in place to provide access to hospital services that are not available at Toowoomba?

See earlier provided advice. This would be managed in the same way it would for any person in Qld who needs hospital care (emergency care or in-patient care) that is not at their local hospital; arrangements will be made to transport them to a location where this care is available.

Commonwealth guide to establishing health services at quarantine accommodation

How does the Queensland Government intend to comply with the Commonwealth guide to establishing health services at quarantine accommodation?

- ***What basic medical equipment will be provided on-site and what emergency equipment will be provided on-site?***

See advice provided earlier.

- ***What is the plan to treat residents requiring medical assistance for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 related illnesses?***

See advice provided earlier.

- ***What is the transfer process for COVID-19 positive residents? Would all positive residents be transferred to Toowoomba hospital and is the hospital set up and able to receive them?***

See advice provided earlier.

- ***How are COVID-19 positive guests not requiring medical treatment and close contacts accommodated and monitored?***

As outlined above, the current Qld Health policy is that all COVID-19 patients go to hospital, whether they require specialized medical care or not. COVID-19 positive patients will be transported to Brisbane.

- ***How will COVID-19 tests at days 0-2 and 10-12 be taken and where will they be analysed? Provisions will need to be established to perform daily staff testing of all staff involved in the quarantine operation – as required by the National Cabinet.***

Qld is compliant with the National Cabinet requirements for daily staff testing and would manage the Toowoomba regional quarantine model the same way as hotel quarantine is currently managed.

Regarding quarantine guest samples, these would be collected and analysed as per the current well-established process in hotel quarantine. Tests will be taken on-site without requiring the person to leave their room with samples taken to a laboratory for analysis.

Private pathology as well as government providers currently assist in the swabbing of guests and staff in hotel quarantine. s47C

Samples are taken to the closest laboratory and

all providers (public and private) have overflow capacity to move samples to a different laboratory if necessary.

- ***Will the individual rooms be able to/include: cater for large families, cater for those requiring mobility assistance, have private bathrooms, have kitchenettes or will an in-house catering service be established, provide laundry services, and include WiFi and facilitation of entertainment.***

Qld has yet to receive a full design proposal from the Wagner Corporation. If the proposal meets some fundamental threshold issues (e.g. government-facilitated flights arriving direct to regional locations), the Qld Government will be actively seeking further engagement with the Wagner Corporation on facility design to ensure the rooms meet the high hotel quarantine standard.

Within existing quarantine hotels there are a range of rooms available some of which have a capacity to support families – this is envisaged to be included in this proposal, with different room designs for individuals and families.

From: Mark Cridland <mark.cridland@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 12 February 2021 2:53 PM
To: Arnold, Debbie; Jessica Collins; Rebecca Mcgarrity
Cc: Frame, Alison; Pullen, David; s22
Subject: RE: Wellcamp Grounds - Question [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Wellcamp - Commonwealth Questions (005) QLD response 12022021.pdf; Ltr to Mak Cridland_Wagner Corporation Response to Qtn_090221vF.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Debbie

Thank you for sending this through, and for the additional information provided yesterday that has allowed us to further refine our detailed responses attached.

In addition, we have attached a response from Wagner Corporation on the questions you raised that were relevant to them (please note the confidentiality markings on this document and limit distribution accordingly).

My team will be in touch to organize a Working Group meeting early next week. Our aim is to now finalise the proposition for consideration by our governments as soon as possible.

Kind regards



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From: Arnold, Debbie <Debbie.Arnold@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 5 February 2021 6:37 AM
To: Jessica Collins <jessica.collins@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Rebecca McGarrity <rebecca.mcgarrity@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Mark Cridland <mark.cridland@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Frame, Alison <Alison.Frame@pmc.gov.au>; Pullen, David <David.Pullen@pmc.gov.au>; s22
Subject: Wellcamp Grounds - Question [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Morning All

As indicated in the Prime Ministers letter to the Premier this week (see attached), relevant agencies across the Commonwealth have pulled together a range of questions to assist with the assessment of the information received

relating to the Wellcamp Grounds in Toowoomba QLD. We can arrange a meeting to discuss further if that suites, noting we are also currently working through the question you sent through this week as well.

Please let me know what time would be suitable and we can arrange.

Kind regards, Debbie

Debbie Arnold

Assistant Secretary

Executive Coordinator | COVID Response

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

s22

e. Debbie.Arnold@pmc.gov.au | www.dpmc.gov.au

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Queensland Government Toowoomba Regional Quarantine Proposal

Australian Government Request for information

Thank you for these questions and for your further advice received on 11 February 2021 (in response to the outstanding questions we provided to you on 2 February 2021).

At the outset, it is important to be clear that the Queensland Government is not seeking to take on the role of the Commonwealth Government in coordinating the return of Australians overseas. That is, and must remain, wholly within the responsibility of the Commonwealth. Queensland's proposal is simply to develop and operate a new quarantine facility, which could accommodate people coming into Australia under the Commonwealth's returning Australians program.

Overview

- The Australian Government seeks to understand the footprint, security perimeters, controls and plan of operations for the airport and quarantine facility.

Airport

- ***Noting the Australian Government cannot direct or divert international scheduled commercial airlines to operate to specific airports in Australia, how does the Queensland Government envisage attracting a scheduled commercial passenger airline to operate to Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport?***

The Australian Government, which is responsible for coordinating the return of overseas Australians, would be responsible for ensuring appropriate flights to bring in returnees.

As indicated in our email of 28 January 2021 and confirmed in the Prime Minister's letter to the Premier dated 4 February 2021, the Queensland Government / West Wellcamp (Toowoomba proposal) is predicated on 2 x Commonwealth facilitated flights per week bringing in a total of approximately 400 pax per week. If the Commonwealth does not intend to use facilitated flights, it is a matter for the Commonwealth to approach commercial airlines to operate to Toowoomba.

Additionally, in advice provided by Commonwealth, it was understood that DFAT would approach the market and be seeking interest from commercial airlines not the Qld Government. Perhaps this question should be directed to DFAT.

Given the number of Australians seeking to return, the Queensland Government would expect the Commonwealth Government to encourage interest in increasing flights (whether government facilitated or commercial) in flying to all ports, including regional ones, where spare quarantine capacity exists, or can be established.

- ***Given the significant operational costs in commencing international passenger services at Toowoomba, the need to obtain an air operator's certificate from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and the location being much less commercially viable than operating into Brisbane (where there is greater outbound passenger and inbound and outbound freight demand), is there a sense of the appetite for international passenger airlines to operate to Toowoomba?***

Further to the comments above, the Queensland Government has not approached international airlines about the regional quarantine facilities. Qld considers it would be the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government to organise appropriate Commonwealth facilitated or commercial flights to ensure appropriate utilisation of any new facility, in line with existing responsibilities. Qld will require appropriate assurances from the Commonwealth Government that appropriate flights will be organised to ensure adequate utilisation of any new facility as part of any decision to progress this proposal.

- ***What plans are in place to mitigate flow on effects for other airlines or operations being serviced by Toowoomba Airport if repatriation flights commence? For example, will the schedules for other flights need to be adjusted and/or will there be greater restrictions on when operations staff can access the airport to manage health risks and sharing of runways, equipment etc.***

QLD understands that Cathay Pacific and Singapore Airlines currently operate weekly freight services from Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport. s47(1)(b), s47B(b)

Further, advice from the Commonwealth on 1 February 2021 indicated that two international passenger aircraft per week on their own are unlikely to trigger the need for an assessment of airspace changes.

Please also see attached document from the Wagner Corporation about current operations of the airport and their views of the impacts of the projected scenario.

- ***Would appropriate facilities be in place to enable customs, immigration and biosecurity clearances of passengers and their baggage?***

s47C

. As noted in your feedback provided on 11 February 2021, determining how many staff would be required per shift, how much space and the specific facilities required to undertake functions will need to be worked through with those agencies and the airport operator. Wagner Corporation has provided additional information regarding the facilities at the airport in the attached document for your consideration. We will be happy to facilitate these further consultations between agencies and the Wagner Corporation.

- ***Toowoomba is less than two hours by road from Brisbane, is there consideration for an alternative option for passengers to fly into Brisbane and then use land transport to move passengers to any planned Toowoomba quarantine facility? Is there a COVID-safe way of this occurring?***

The regional quarantine proposals have been considered and examined closely with regard to infection control. Every option has been tested by Qld health officials to ensure that it accords with best practice regarding infection control processes and procedure, specifically ensuring that we are minimising risk of exposure to COVID-19. Transporting potential infectious passengers from Brisbane to West Wellcamp in a confined space (bus) for 90m minutes does create additional touch points and further exposure risks.

Airport safety

- ***How will the Queensland Government and the airport operator establish an international passenger aviation rescue and firefighting services (ARFFS) at Toowoomba?***
- ***Has consideration been given to who would provide and pay for ARFFS? The ARFFS operator would be required to meet CASA's standards and be on a ministerially approved schedule of providers (currently only Airservices Australia). Noting any international airline passenger service operator (and their insurers) are likely to insist on an ARFFS consistent with international civil aviation standards and may take six months to fully establish.***

Thank you for advice regarding ARFFS, including in the updated information provided on 11 February 2021. The Wagner Corporation has provided additional information regarding the ARFFS capability issue in the attached document. This issue will need to be worked through directly with the airport operator.

Q6: How will the Queensland Government ensure airlines adhere to strict requirements to provide passenger health information for Government facilitated flights?

Regulation of airlines and collection of passenger information is a matter for the Commonwealth Government. How is this currently done in Howard Springs?

International passenger caps

- ***Will regional non-hotel COVID-19 quarantine be in addition or instead of existing international passenger caps and hotel quarantine arrangements in Brisbane?***

To be confirmed, however, as indicated in discussions it is likely the regional quarantine will be in addition to existing international caps and existing hotel quarantine operating in Qld (noting hotels are located in a number of locations not just Brisbane).

- ***What level of additional quarantine capacity and number of passengers does the Queensland Government envisage being carried under this proposal?***

As indicated in our email of 28 January 2021, the current proposal is for 400 pax to arrive per week (2x Commonwealth government facilitated flights with 200 pax per flight).

- ***From what destinations overseas does the Queensland Government see the passengers coming from, noting destinations currently being served by Brisbane and Cairns?***

Given the proposal is for government facilitated flights, Qld considers that this would be a matter for the Commonwealth government. Qld officials would welcome the opportunity to discuss this in detail with the Commonwealth to ensure that provisions can be made to accommodate all possible arriving pax.

Commonwealth support

- ***What level of support is expected to be required from the Australian Government?***

This has been the subject to ongoing emails, correspondence and meetings. There is a wide range of support that would be required from the Australian Government and its agencies, including for example, the Australian Government facilitating 2 x flight per week; the Australian government and its agencies providing up yet to be determined number of staff to process arriving passengers (s47C

and assistance in negotiating approvals/advice with CASA and/or the Department of Infrastructure.

Without setting out an exhaustive list and noting the further advice you provided on 11/2/21, Qld would appreciate further consultation and detailed advice from the Commonwealth as to what support the Commonwealth government would offer Qld in establishing, and operating a regional quarantine facility, having regard to the assistance and support the Commonwealth offers in relation to Howard Springs and the nature of the proposal.

- ***What Australian Federal Police (AFP) assistance is expected to be required at the quarantine facility? The AFP assumes the Queensland Police Service (QPS) will provide support and have the lead role.***
 - ***Should AFP assistance be required, AFP officers would be required to be sworn in as special members of QPS to provide support.***
 - ***The AFP assumes that escort / transport of passengers from the Airport would be the responsibility of QPS, consistent with models currently in place.***
 - ***As the airport is privately owned, and therefore not a Commonwealth establishment, the AFP has no Commonwealth powers under COPAL. This would be mitigated by AFP officers being sworn in as special members of QPS to provide support.***
 - ***AFP staff in Queensland are largely located in Brisbane and Cairns. AFP Officers would be required to be sourced nationally to provide support at the airport and accommodation would be required for deployed AFP officers. Would the Queensland Government support AFP deployments being temporary and on a fly in fly out basis?***

Further detailed conversations on need, role and responsibilities will need to be held between QPS and AFP. Thank you for providing updated information on 11/2/21 (s47C

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s47C

- ***What level of support is expected to be required from the Australian Defence Force?***

To be determined following further discussions with the Federal Government. As per your advice, we note that any ADF assistance is reliant on Federal Government officials gaining a comprehensive understanding of the tasks requested of them. s47C

- ***What accommodation will be provided for Commonwealth personnel? How will quarantine and security compliance staff quarantine requirements be met? How will the Queensland Government manage the health and biosecurity risks, and financial implications associated with remote quarantining?***

To be determined. Once the staff resourcing model is finalised, Qld will facilitate discussions with the Wagner Corporation (as the airport operator and West Wellcamp owner) to determine staff accommodation requirements and consider this should be offered as part of facilities negotiations. Further, Queensland Health is part of the team developing the proposal and is leading work around minimising health and biosecurity risks. Qld is happy to brief the Commonwealth further on these issues.

s47(1)(b), s47B(b)

Regarding the financial implications, we envisage that there will be cost implications for the Commonwealth government. As per the Premier's letter dated 29/1/21, we have sought information on what Federal Government support and resourcing, including financial contribution, will be made available at both the airport and the quarantine facility, including for: processing of international arrivals; necessary capital works for essential service infrastructure; health and welfare services (for example, hospital/primary care services and other health/welfare supports); and facility operation (for example, health and security personnel, transport, catering, maintenance, ICT systems, financial administration/invoicing, data reporting, etc).

Passenger transport

- ***How will passengers be transported from the airport to the quarantine facility? Please outline how you would manage health and biosecurity risks during this time.***

As per hotel quarantine in other Qld locations, passengers will be transported by bus, and/or personalised transport such as taxis where people have special needs. Health and biosecurity risks will be managed in the same way as per other hotel quarantine locations.

- ***What plan does the Queensland Government have for releasing returning passengers from quarantine and transporting them to home locations?***

To be advised. As per hotel quarantine in other Qld locations, passengers will be transported by bus, and/or personalised transport such as taxis where people have special needs. Health and biosecurity risks will be managed in the same way as per other hotel quarantine locations.

Quarantine facility

- ***What is the status of the planning and design work for the quarantine facility?***

Preliminary designs have been provided by the Wagner Corporation, however, detailed planning and design work is still being undertaken. As noted above, s47(1)(b), s47B(b)

- ***How long would it take to construct and operationalise the quarantine facility?***

s47(1)(b), s47B(b)

- ***What security measures would be in place in addition to QPS and AFP, such as fences, to contain those undertaking quarantine and prevent community transmission?***

s47(1)(b), s47B(b)

- ***Would a medical facility be constructed as part of the quarantine facility?***

To be advised subject to further health advice. s47(1)(b), s47B(b)

- ***Seeking further information on the vacant block of land where the quarantine facility would be constructed. Is this block owned by Wagner Corporation?***

s47(1)(b), s47B(b)

- ***Are there any other tracts of land near the airport suitable for constructing a quarantine facility?***

- s47(1)(b), s47B(b)

- ***Please outline how staff movements and compliance would be monitored and if necessary, information be collected (e.g. CCTV, contact information) to allow detailed investigation of potential weaknesses and breaches?***

See above, CCTV is included in the proposal.

- ***Please outline how the operation of the facility would meet and maintain best practice standards, including performance standards outlined by the AHPPC and the National Review of Hotel Quarantine.***

West Wellcamp, once contracted and operational, will be managed by QH and QPS as per Qld's hotel quarantine. Since March 2020, Qld has engaged 74 hotels as part of the quarantine programs - all hotels maintain best practice standards. West Wellcamp would be managed in the same way.

- ***Please outline Queensland's plan to separate residents according to risk and those in vulnerable groups.***

Qld Health and QPS has managed 74 different quarantine hotels and 66,000 residents over the last 10 months. We have successfully managed residents according to risk and separate vulnerable groups. We will continue to do so for residents of West Wellcamp if and when it becomes operational.

Medical support

- ***What would be the clinical workforce makeup? Is there available and sufficient clinical workforce within the Queensland health system?***
- ***What plans are in place should the hospital / ICU at Toowoomba be at capacity?***
- ***What plans are in place to ensure individuals have access to mental health support?***
- ***What plans are in place to provide access to hospital services that are not available at Toowoomba?***

This is being considered as part of the detailed health planning underway and further advice will be provided as a matter of priority. As above, Qld would manage this to the standard of our hotel quarantine program that is currently operating in various cities across Qld.

Commonwealth guide to establishing health services at quarantine accommodation

- ***How does the Queensland Government intend to comply with the Commonwealth guide to establishing health services at quarantine accommodation? In particular reference the provisions and arrangements detailed on pages 3 to 5. For example:***
 - ***What basic medical equipment will be provided on-site and what emergency equipment will be provided on-site?***
 - ***What is the plan to treat residents requiring medical assistance for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 related illnesses?***
 - ***What is the transfer process for COVID-19 positive residents? Would all positive residents be transferred to Toowoomba hospital and is the hospital set up and able to receive them?***
 - ***How are COVID-19 positive guests not requiring medical treatment and close contacts accommodated and monitored?***

- ***How will COVID-19 tests at days 0-2 and 10-12 be taken and where will they be analysed? Provisions will need to be established to perform daily staff testing of all staff involved in the quarantine operation – as required by the National Cabinet.***
- ***Will the individual rooms be able to/include: cater for large families, cater for those requiring mobility assistance, have private bathrooms, have kitchenettes or will an in-house catering service be established, provide laundry services, and include WiFi and facilitation of entertainment.***

This is being considered as part of the detailed health planning underway and further advice will be provided as a matter of priority. As above, Qld would manage this to the standard of our hotel quarantine program that is currently operating in various cities across Qld.

Financials

- ***What are the Queensland Government's estimated total costs? Can you provide a breakdown of the estimated costs?***
- ***Would the Queensland Government seek any financial contribution from the Commonwealth? If so, what would be the quantum / share?***
- ***What would the Queensland Government's contribution / share towards the proposal be?***
- ***Who will pay for the establishment of regular Australian Border Force and biosecurity staff at the airport?***

As per the Premier's letter dated 29/1/21, Qld has sought information on what Federal Government support and resourcing, including financial contribution, will be made available at both the airport and the quarantine facility, including for: processing of international arrivals; necessary capital works for essential service infrastructure; health and welfare services (for example, hospital/primary care services and other health/welfare supports); and facility operation (for example, health and security personnel, transport, catering, maintenance, ICT systems, financial administration/invoicing, data reporting, etc). We understand significant financial support has been provided to the Northern Territory to support the quarantine facility at Howard Springs. This quantum of funding the Commonwealth Government is prepared to provide will be critical in Queensland's decision making about progressing this proposal.

From: Arnold, Debbie
Sent: Thursday, 11 February 2021 5:35 PM
To: Jessica Collins
Cc: Sally Lohrisch; Sean Kricker; Mark Cridland; Rebecca McGarrity; Alexandra Jensen; Spencer, Nicole; s22 [REDACTED] Frame, Alison
Subject: RE: Options for consideration by CASA [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Queensland Government Request for Information - Commonwealth Response 11022021.docx

OFFICIAL

Afternoon Jess

Thanks for the conversation today, please find attached responses to the below questions.

More than happy to make time for a further working group meeting to talk through questions as you further develop the proposal.

Thanks, Debbie

From: Jessica Collins
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 12:02 PM
To: Arnold, Debbie ; Spencer, Nicole
Cc: Sally Lohrisch ; Sean Krickler ; Mark Cridland ; Rebecca McGarritty ; Alexandra Jensen
Subject: RE: Options for consideration by CASA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Debbie, Nicole,

Thank you very much for the information provided. Just to clarify, the current consideration of options is for the operation of one facility, rather than two concurrently.

We had a few follow-up queries and are seeking your advice.

Firstly, we note a number of the resource calculations are based on the Northern Territory model. As an overarching query, can you please confirm the quarantine numbers managed in this model (both incoming flights and at the facility), and what would be the upper threshold of quarantine numbers before the Cwth would need to consider additional resources?

s47C

• s47C

s47C

• s22

CASA advice – Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport

- Is CASA able to provide any indication of what might be the threshold/parameters around the safe operating limit of the airport? We understand that the details would need careful assessment and collaboration between the airline/ground handling organisation, airport operator and CASA. However, if any thresholds or rough indications could be provided it would assist us to make a preliminary assessment before having to engage in detailed discussions.
- Regarding the ATC, we are grateful for the advice around 2 flights per week likely not triggering the need for any additional assessment. Would there be any preliminary advice around what number of flights might trigger that need for assessment?
- We note the need for AARFFS – would have any information for us to get a sense of the timing involved in establishing this? (Including organizing the provider, obtaining CASA approvals and having the Minister approve?) Do you have any indication of costs involved for airline operators?

s22

Thanks again for your assistance to date.

Kind regards



Jessica Collins

Executive Director

Intergovernmental Relations and Policy Futures

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

P 300 39048 M s47F

Level 30, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

PO Box 15185, City East, QLD 4002

From: Arnold, Debbie <Debbie.Arnold@pmc.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 1 February 2021 4:56 PM

To: Jessica Collins <jessica.collins@premiers.qld.gov.au>

Cc: Rebecca McGarrity <rebecca.mcgarritty@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Alexandra Jensen

<alexandra.jensen@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Mark Cridland <mark.cridland@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Sally Lohrisch

	<p>s47C</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Lighting would need to be reviewed in both locations for inspection purposes.</p>
<p>Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (DITRDC)</p>	<p><u>Toowoomba (Wellcamp)</u></p> <p>CASA advises the private airport operator would be required to ensure requirements for regular international air passenger operations met CASA's Manual of Standards for such operations. The operating international airline and their ground handling organisation would work with the airport operator for this purpose, for example specific apron occupancy arrangements would need to be arranged by the aircraft operator with the airport to ensure other aircraft operations would not interfere with aircraft parking.</p> <p>CASA advises that future requirements for an air traffic control (ATC) tower at Wellcamp are continually assessed by its Office of Airspace Regulation (OAR) based on a range of risk factors not just the number of additional flights (international or other). Two international passenger aircraft per week on their own are unlikely to trigger the need for an assessment of airspace changes.</p> <p>CASA's Manual of Standards requires an aviation rescue and fire fighting service for an aerodrome from or to which an international passenger air service operates. The current Wellcamp fire service is not an approved provider under the CASA regulations.</p> <p>The provider of the ARFFS needs to be on the schedule of ARFFS providers approved under the regulations by the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development (e.g. Airservices Australia) – an addition to the schedule would only occur with the Minister's approval, one pre-condition of which is that CASA would have to agree the ARFFS provider met the necessary standard for the provision of ARFFS for international air passenger services. ARFFS operations are subject to cost recovery from airline operators.</p> <p>s22</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>The proposed operation of scheduled international passenger services to Wellcamp would require close assessment by CASA noting the airport's existing runway and international air freight services.</p> <p>In the first instance the low level of additional traffic from the Qld proposal may not warrant an assessment for establishment of an ATC however an ARFFS of a standard capable of handling international passenger flights and other operational arrangements by the airline/airport operator to meet the CASA manual of standards for the relevant type of aircraft operating these services would need to be in place before the commencement of scheduled international passenger services.</p> <p>In addition international passenger aircraft operators (and their insurers) can also require the airport to have available ATC and ARFFS before they will commit to regular scheduled passenger services.</p> <p>s22</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>

	s22 [Redacted]	s22 [Redacted]
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Thanks, Debbie

From: Arnold, Debbie <Debbie.Arnold@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 1 February 2021 9:42 AM
To: Jessica Collins <jessica.collins@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Rebecca McGarrity <rebecca.mcgarritty@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Alexandra Jensen <alexandra.jensen@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Mark Cridland <mark.cridland@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Sally Lohrisch <sally.lohrisch@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Frame, Alison <Alison.Frame@pmc.gov.au>; s22 [Redacted]; Spencer, Nicole <Nicole.Spencer@pmc.gov.au>; WOLFE Jim (Jim.Wolfe@infrastructure.gov.au) <Jim.Wolfe@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Options for consideration by CASA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Jess

Thank you for sending through the scenarios.

Agency	Preliminary Advice	Comments
ABF	s47C [Redacted]	s47C [Redacted]
	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

		s47C [REDACTED]
AFP	s47C [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	s47C [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
ADF	s47C [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	s47C [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment	s47C [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	s22 [REDACTED] Lighting would need to be reviewed in both locations for inspection purposes.

Will pass through preliminary advice from CASA as soon as we receive—have included Jim into this email.

More than happy to discuss the above.

Thanks, Debbie

From: Jessica Collins <jessica.collins@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 January 2021 5:37 PM
To: Spencer, Nicole <Nicole.Spencer@pmc.gov.au>; Arnold, Debbie <Debbie.Arnold@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: Rebecca Mcgarrrity <rebecca.mcgarrity@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Alexandra Jensen <alexandra.jensen@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Mark Cridland <mark.cridland@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Sally Lohrsch <sally.lohrsch@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Options for consideration by CASA
Importance: High

Hi Nicole, Debbie,

Further to discussions today, in order for Qld to finalise a proposal regarding regional quarantine, we are seeking your advice on the issues below.

As discussed this afternoon, we are working on the basis that the capacity at either proposed quarantine facility would be taken up by the Commonwealth using facilitated flights of up to 200PAX per flight and that there would be a steady influx of such flights to ensure the facility was being used effectively.

Airport viability

s22



Options for Wellcamp International Airport

2. On above scenarios, there would be 2 x 200 pax planes landing per week.
 - a. Can we obtain preliminary advice from CASA about whether a new Air Traffic Control tower would be required if we had an additional 2 international flights per week; and what would the threshold of flights before an Air Traffic Control Tower would need to be built?
 - b. Can we obtain preliminary advice from CASA what fire and emergency services would be need at Wellcamp Airport to support this? Understanding that Wellcamp does have a fire fighting capability (3 international cargo flights per week atm). Would it be the same with passenger planes coming in?

s22



We also understand we would need Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure approval to designate the airports as international airports, and would welcome advice about the specific process for this and timeframes.

Quarantine facilities

We would also welcome advice about what specific requirements the Cth would have for any quarantine facility (for example, the specific accommodation numbers and requirements for ABF/ADF/AFP personnel, based on the above scenarios).

Thanks so much for you assistance to date.

Kind regards



Jessica Collins

Executive Director

Intergovernmental Relations and Policy Futures

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

P 300 39048 M **s47F**

Level 30, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

PO Box 15185, City East, QLD 4002

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Queensland Government Request for Information – Regional Quarantine Facility Proposal

General

We note a number of the resource calculations are based on the Northern Territory model. As an overarching query, can you please confirm the quarantine numbers managed in this model (both incoming flights and at the facility), and what would be the upper threshold of quarantine numbers before the Cwth would need to consider additional resources?

AFP- s47C

Note: It is difficult to apply this resource allocation directly to a different site/airbase as resourcing will be dependent upon a number of factors, including the design of the facility/infrastructure etc.

As with other agencies deploying, any allocated staff would need to take up short term accommodation to assist with this deployment.

Australian Border Force

s47C

s47C

s47C	s47C
s47C	s47C
Australian Defence Force	
s47C	s47C
s47C	s47C

[illegible]

	<p>s47C</p> <p>[Redacted content]</p>
<p>s22</p> <p>[Redacted content]</p>	<p>s22</p> <p>[Redacted content]</p>
CASA	
<p>Is CASA able to provide any indication of what might be the threshold/parameters around the safe operating limit of the airport? We understand that the details would need careful assessment and collaboration between the airline/ground handling organisation, airport operator and CASA. However, if any thresholds or rough indications could be provided it would assist us to make a preliminary assessment before having to engage in detailed discussions.</p>	<p>Aircraft up to and including Boeing 747-400, Boeing 777-200, Boeing 787, Airbus A330 and Airbus A350 will be able to operate within CASR Part 139 regulations at Wellcamp. Larger aircraft require ground guidance that can be problematic for the airport (e.g. B777-300 and A380). Part 139 allows operators to directly engage with aerodromes to assess capabilities and ramifications of other than standard operations. CASA sees no overt impediment to the proposal at this time.</p>

<p>Regarding the ATC, we are grateful for the advice around 2 flights per week likely not triggering the need for any additional assessment. Would there be any preliminary advice around what number of flights might trigger that need for assessment?</p>	<p>The provision of ATC is not triggered strictly by the number of flights, rather by the complexity of the airspace, number and types of aircraft. CASA would consider an airspace review if internationals were operating several flights per day over a 12-month period. If ATC was required from the review, Airservices would then have 12 months to provide it.</p> <p>CASA would have no objection to a scenario where there were only two flights a week under the assumption that the risk assessment related to the airspace, type of instrument arrival and aerodrome conditions was considered to be low in nature. CASA would recommend a duration limit of no more than 12 months or if circumstances change.</p>
<p>We note the need for AARFFS – would have any information for us to get a sense of the timing involved in establishing this? (Including organizing the provider, obtaining CASA approvals and having the Minister approve?) Do you have any indication of costs involved for airline operators?</p>	<p>Airservices is the provider of ARFFS that will have the ability to provide a service at Wellcamp in the quickest time frame. CASA worked successfully with Airservices on the development of a graduated implementation of ARFFS at Whitsunday Coast Airport (2019-20) and that model could be employed at Wellcamp. An indication of Airservices ARFFS costs at different locations to airlines is available on Airservices website</p> <p>CASA believes some form of ARFFS is required regardless of the number of flights per day or week. CASA would consider a reduced Category i.e. CAT 6 vis-a-vis 8 for arrivals after assessing the type of arrivals. In some cases the higher CAT is to ensure they can support the type of aircraft but also other ICAO requirements, which may not be present during these operations.</p>

From: Arnold, Debbie
Sent: Friday, 5 February 2021 7:37 AM
To: Jessica Collins (jessica.collins@premiers.qld.gov.au); Rebecca McGarrity; Mark Cridland
Cc: Frame, Alison; Pullen, David; s22
Subject: Wellcamp Grounds - Question [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: MC21-007148 - PM to Palaszczuk (Qld) - Queensland Government's Proposal to Establish a Regional Non-hotel COVID-19 Quarantine Facility.pdf; Wellcamp - Commonwealth Questions.docx

OFFICIAL

Morning All

As indicated in the Prime Ministers letter to the Premier this week (see attached), relevant agencies across the Commonwealth have pulled together a range of questions to assist with the assessment of the information received relating to the Wellcamp Grounds in Toowoomba QLD. We can arrange a meeting to discuss further if that suites, noting we are also currently working through the question you sent through this week as well.

Please let me know what time would be suitable and we can arrange.

Kind regards, Debbie

Debbie Arnold

Assistant Secretary
Executive Coordinator | COVID Response
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

s22
e. Debbie.Arnold@pmc.gov.au | www.dpmc.gov.au

Queensland Government Toowoomba Regional Quarantine Proposal

Australian Government Request for information

Overview

- The Australian Government seeks to understand the footprint, security perimeters, controls and plan of operations for the airport and quarantine facility.

Airport

- Noting the Australian Government cannot direct or divert international scheduled commercial airlines to operate to specific airports in Australia, how does the Queensland Government envisage attracting a scheduled commercial passenger airline to operate to Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport?
 - Given the significant operational costs in commencing international passenger services at Toowoomba, the need to obtain an air operator's certificate from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and the location being much less commercially viable than operating into Brisbane (where there is greater outbound passenger and inbound and outbound freight demand), is there a sense of the appetite for international passenger airlines to operate to Toowoomba?
- What plans are in place to mitigate flow on effects for other airlines or operations being serviced by Toowoomba Airport if repatriation flights commence? For example, will the schedules for other flights need to be adjusted and/or will there be greater restrictions on when operations staff can access the airport to manage health risks and sharing of runways, equipment etc.
- Would appropriate facilities be in place to enable customs, immigration and biosecurity clearances of passengers and their baggage?
- Toowoomba is less than two hours by road from Brisbane, is there consideration for an alternative option for passengers to fly into Brisbane and then use land transport to move passengers to any planned Toowoomba quarantine facility? Is there a COVID-safe way of this occurring?

Airport safety

- How will the Queensland Government and the airport operator establish an international passenger aviation rescue and firefighting services (ARFFS) at Toowoomba?
 - Has consideration been given to who would provide and pay for ARFFS? The ARFFS operator would be required to meet CASA's standards and be on a ministerially approved schedule of providers (currently only Airservices Australia). Noting any international airline passenger service operator (and their insurers) are likely to insist on an ARFFS consistent with international civil aviation standards and may take six months to fully establish.
- How will the Queensland Government ensure airlines adhere to strict requirements to provide passenger health information for Government facilitated flights?

International passenger caps

- Will regional non-hotel COVID-19 quarantine be in addition or instead of existing international passenger caps and hotel quarantine arrangements in Brisbane?
 - What level of additional quarantine capacity and number of passengers does the Queensland Government envisage being carried under this proposal?

- From what destinations overseas does the Queensland Government see the passengers coming from, noting destinations currently being served by Brisbane and Cairns?

Commonwealth support

- What level of support is expected to be required from the Australian Government?
- What Australian Federal Police (AFP) assistance is expected to be required at the quarantine facility? The AFP assumes the Queensland Police Service (QPS) will provide support and have the lead role.



- What level of support is expected to be required from the Australian Defence Force?
- What accommodation will be provided for Commonwealth personnel? How will quarantine and security compliance staff quarantine requirements be met? How will the Queensland Government manage the health and biosecurity risks, and financial implications associated with remote quarantining?

Passenger transport

- How will passengers be transported from the airport to the quarantine facility? Please outline how you would manage health and biosecurity risks during this time.
- What plan does the Queensland Government have for releasing returning passengers from quarantine and transporting them to home locations?

Quarantine facility

- What is the status of the planning and design work for the quarantine facility?
- How long would it take to construct and operationalise the quarantine facility?
- What security measures would be in place in addition to QPS and AFP, such as fences, to contain those undertaking quarantine and prevent community transmission?
- Would a medical facility be constructed as part of the quarantine facility?
- Seeking further information on the vacant block of land where the quarantine facility would be constructed. Is this block owned by Wagner Corporation?
- Are there any other tracts of land near the airport suitable for constructing a quarantine facility?
- Please outline how staff movements and compliance would be monitored and if necessary, information be collected (e.g. CCTV, contact information) to allow detailed investigation of potential weaknesses and breaches?

- Please outline how the operation of the facility would meet and maintain best practice standards, including performance standards outlined by the AHPPC and the National Review of Hotel Quarantine.
- Please outline Queensland's plan to separate residents according to risk and those in vulnerable groups.

Medical support

- What would be the clinical workforce makeup? Is there available and sufficient clinical workforce within the Queensland health system?
- What plans are in place should the hospital / ICU at Toowoomba be at capacity?
- What plans are in place to ensure individuals have access to mental health support?
- What plans are in place to provide access to hospital services that are not available at Toowoomba?

Commonwealth guide to establishing health services at quarantine accommodation

- How does the Queensland Government intend to comply with the Commonwealth guide to establishing health services at quarantine accommodation? See Attachment A. In particular reference the provisions and arrangements detailed on pages 3 to 5. For example:
 - What basic medical equipment will be provided on-site and what emergency equipment will be provided on-site?
 - What is the plan to treat residents requiring medical assistance for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 related illnesses?
 - What is the transfer process for COVID-19 positive residents? Would all positive residents be transferred to Toowoomba hospital and is the hospital set up and able to receive them?
 - How are COVID-19 positive guests not requiring medical treatment and close contacts accommodated and monitored?
 - How will COVID-19 tests at days 0-2 and 10-12 be taken and where will they be analysed? Provisions will need to be established to perform daily staff testing of all staff involved in the quarantine operation – as required by the National Cabinet.
 - Will the individual rooms be able to/include: cater for large families, cater for those requiring mobility assistance, have private bathrooms, have kitchenettes or will an in-house catering service be established, provide laundry services, and include WiFi and facilitation of entertainment.

Financials

- What are the Queensland Government's estimated total costs? Can you provide a breakdown of the estimated costs?
- Would the Queensland Government seek any financial contribution from the Commonwealth? If so, what would be the quantum / share?
- What would the Queensland Government's contribution / share towards the proposal be?
- Who will pay for the establishment of regular Australian Border Force and biosecurity staff at the airport?



PRIME MINISTER

Reference: MC21-007148

04 FEB 2021

The Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk
Premier of Queensland
Minister for Trade
1 William Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Premier

Thank you for your letters dated 22 and 29 January 2021 regarding the Queensland Government's proposal to establish a regional non-hotel COVID-19 quarantine facility.

I appreciate the Queensland Government's presentation of options to establish a regional quarantine facility to provide a means of supporting more Australians to return home, especially in emergency or overflow situation.

The Commonwealth Government's consideration of this issue is focused on delivery of supplemental capacity to hotel-based quarantine currently delivered by the Queensland Government with Commonwealth assistance. It is also important to recognise that it would service the quarantine needs for inbound charter flights arranged by the Commonwealth or other parties, rather than regular international passenger flights. I would again note that it is highly unlikely for regular commercial international passenger flights to be able to be redirected to particular airports. The Commonwealth would also need to ensure that any option for a new regional quarantine facility would provide a greater value for money outcome than alternative options, which expand the capacity of existing quarantine locations.

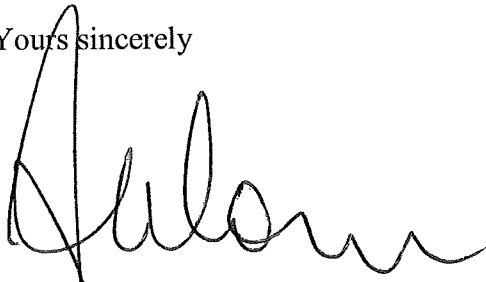
Following Commonwealth consideration of your proposal to utilise Homeground Villages as a quarantine facility, I am informed that there are several concerns which indicate it will not be fit for purpose as an additional quarantine facility. I note that Rockhampton Airport has limited capability to receive multiple wide-body aircraft, such as a Boeing 777, and lacks appropriate freight handling facilities. Further, the distance from Homeground Villages to an Intensive Care Unit and the availability of a clinical workforce makes it difficult to ensure appropriate clinical support for the facility. I am also concerned about the impact a loss of access to mining camp facilities would have on the resources industry and the unnecessary risk posed by the proximity of the camps to critical industry in the region.

I note that the outline of the concept proposal you have provided for the Wellcamp option does not provide the detail necessary to make an assessment of the proposal at this time.

I have asked the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to work with relevant Commonwealth agencies to ensure that your officials have a comprehensive understanding of the information the Commonwealth would require to make such an assessment of the Wellcamp proposal. This will be provided to your officials through the established working group that has been meeting to discuss the viability of regional quarantine within Queensland.

I have provided a copy of our correspondence to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon Michael McCormack MP, the Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Peter Dutton MP, the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, the Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, and the Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management, the Hon David Littleproud MP.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Morrison', written in a cursive style.

SCOTT MORRISON

From: Arnold, Debbie
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 5:54 PM
To: Jessica Collins; Spencer, Nicole
Cc: Sally Lohrisch; Sean Kricker; Mark Cridland; Rebecca McGarrity; Alexandra Jensen; s22 Pullen, David; s22 WOLFE Jim (Jim.Wolfe@infrastructure.gov.au); s22
Subject: RE: Options for consideration by CASA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks Jess—we will review and come back shortly.

From: Jessica Collins
Sent: Tuesday, 2 February 2021 12:02 PM
To: Arnold, Debbie ; Spencer, Nicole
Cc: Sally Lohrisch ; Sean Kricker ; Mark Cridland ; Rebecca McGarrity ; Alexandra Jensen
Subject: RE: Options for consideration by CASA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Debbie, Nicole,

Thank you very much for the information provided. Just to clarify, the current consideration of options is for the operation of one facility, rather than two concurrently.

We had a few follow-up queries and are seeking your advice.

Firstly, we note a number of the resource calculations are based on the Northern Territory model. As an overarching query, can you please confirm the quarantine numbers managed in this model (both incoming flights and at the facility), and what would be the upper threshold of quarantine numbers before the Cwth would need to consider additional resources?

s47C

s47C

DAWE

- The estimate of 6 staff for each flight – would additional staff be required for these officers to work on a roster system throughout the week?
- We note the need to review lighting at the airport; are you able to advise whether there are other airport requirements for DAWE that we need to be aware of?

- s47C

- s22

CASA advice – Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport

- Is CASA able to provide any indication of what might be the threshold/parameters around the safe operating limit of the airport? We understand that the details would need careful assessment and collaboration between the airline/ground handling organisation, airport operator and CASA. However, if any thresholds or rough indications could be provided it would assist us to make a preliminary assessment before having to engage in detailed discussions.
- Regarding the ATC, we are grateful for the advice around 2 flights per week likely not triggering the need for any additional assessment. Would there be any preliminary advice around what number of flights might trigger that need for assessment?
- We note the need for AARFFS – would have any information for us to get a sense of the timing involved in establishing this? (Including organizing the provider, obtaining CASA approvals and having the Minister approve?) Do you have any indication of costs involved for airline operators?

s22

Thanks again for your assistance to date.

Kind regards



Jessica Collins

Executive Director

Intergovernmental Relations and Policy Futures

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

P 300 39048 M s47F

Level 30, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

PO Box 15185, City East, QLD 4002

From: Arnold, Debbie <Debbie.Arnold@pmc.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 1 February 2021 4:56 PM

To: Jessica Collins <jessica.collins@premiers.qld.gov.au>

Cc: Rebecca McGarrity <rebecca.mcgarritty@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Alexandra Jensen

<alexandra.jensen@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Mark Cridland <mark.cridland@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Sally Lohrsch

<sally.lohrsch@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Frame, Alison <Alison.Frame@pmc.gov.au>; s22

s22; Spencer, Nicole

<Nicole.Spencer@pmc.gov.au>; WOLFE Jim (<Jim.Wolfe@infrastructure.gov.au>) <Jim.Wolfe@infrastructure.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Options for consideration by CASA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Afternoon Jess

Please see below an updated table that has the preliminary advice from CASA (thank you to Infrastructure for gathering this information):

Agency	Preliminary Advice	Comments
ABF	<p>s47C [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>s47C [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
AFP	<p>s47C [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>s47C [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
ADF	<p>s47C [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>s47C [REDACTED]</p>
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment	<p>s47C [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>s22 [REDACTED]</p> <p>Lighting would need to be reviewed in both locations for inspection purposes.</p>
Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and	<p><u>Toowoomba (Wellcamp)</u></p> <p>CASA advises the private airport operator would be required to ensure requirements for regular international air passenger operations met CASA's Manual of Standards</p>	<p>The proposed operation of scheduled international passenger services to Wellcamp would require</p>

<p>Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (DITRDC)</p>	<p>for such operations. The operating international airline and their ground handling organisation would work with the airport operator for this purpose, for example specific apron occupancy arrangements would need to be arranged by the aircraft operator with the airport to ensure other aircraft operations would not interfere with aircraft parking.</p> <p>CASA advises that future requirements for an air traffic control (ATC) tower at Wellcamp are continually assessed by its Office of Airspace Regulation (OAR) based on a range of risk factors not just the number of additional flights (international or other). Two international passenger aircraft per week on their own are unlikely to trigger the need for an assessment of airspace changes.</p> <p>CASA's Manual of Standards requires an aviation rescue and fire fighting service for an aerodrome from or to which an international passenger air service operates. The current Wellcamp fire service is not an approved provider under the CASA regulations.</p> <p>The provider of the ARFFS needs to be on the schedule of ARFFS providers approved under the regulations by the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development (e.g. Airservices Australia) – an addition to the schedule would only occur with the Minister's approval, one pre-condition of which is that CASA would have to agree the ARFFS provider met the necessary standard for the provision of ARFFS for international air passenger services. ARFFS operations are subject to cost recovery from airline operators.</p> <p>s22 [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>close assessment by CASA noting the airport's existing runway and international air freight services.</p> <p>In the first instance the low level of additional traffic from the Qld proposal may not warrant an assessment for establishment of an ATC however an ARFFS of a standard capable of handling international passenger flights and other operational arrangements by the airline/airport operator to meet the CASA manual of standards for the relevant type of aircraft operating these services would need to be in place before the commencement of scheduled international passenger services.</p> <p>In addition international passenger aircraft operators (and their insurers) can also require the airport to have available ATC and ARFFS before they will commit to regular scheduled passenger services.</p> <p>s22 [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
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	s22 [Redacted]	s22 [Redacted]
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Thanks, Debbie

From: Arnold, Debbie <Debbie.Arnold@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 1 February 2021 9:42 AM
To: Jessica Collins <jessica.collins@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Rebecca McGarrity <rebecca.mcgarritty@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Alexandra Jensen <alexandra.jensen@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Mark Cridland <mark.cridland@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Sally Lohrisch <sally.lohrisch@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Frame, Alison <Alison.Frame@pmc.gov.au>; s22
s22; Spencer, Nicole <Nicole.Spencer@pmc.gov.au>; WOLFE Jim (Jim.Wolfe@infrastructure.gov.au) <Jim.Wolfe@infrastructure.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Options for consideration by CASA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Jess

Thank you for sending through the scenarios.

Agency	Preliminary Advice	Comments
ABF	s47C [Redacted]	s47C [Redacted]
AFP	s47C [Redacted]	s47C [Redacted]

		s47C
ADF	s47C	s47C
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment	s47C	s22
		Lighting would need to be reviewed in both locations for inspection purposes.

Will pass through preliminary advice from CASA as soon as we receive—have included Jim into this email.

More than happy to discuss the above.

Thanks, Debbie

From: Jessica Collins <jessica.collins@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 January 2021 5:37 PM
To: Spencer, Nicole <Nicole.Spencer@pmc.gov.au>; Arnold, Debbie <Debbie.Arnold@pmc.gov.au>
Cc: Rebecca McGarrity <rebecca.mcgarrity@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Alexandra Jensen <alexandra.jensen@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Mark Cridland <mark.cridland@premiers.qld.gov.au>; Sally Lohrsch <sally.lohrsch@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Options for consideration by CASA
Importance: High

Hi Nicole, Debbie,

Further to discussions today, in order for Qld to finalise a proposal regarding regional quarantine, we are seeking your advice on the issues below.

As discussed this afternoon, we are working on the basis that the capacity at either proposed quarantine facility would be taken up by the Commonwealth using facilitated flights of up to 200PAX per flight and that there would be a steady influx of such flights to ensure the facility was being used effectively.

Airport viability

Options for Wellcamp International Airport

2. On above scenarios, there would be 2 x 200 pax planes landing per week.
 - a. Can we obtain preliminary advice from CASA about whether a new Air Traffic Control tower would be required if we had an additional 2 international flights per week; and what would the threshold of flights before an Air Traffic Control Tower would need to be built?
 - b. Can we obtain preliminary advice from CASA what fire and emergency services would be need at Wellcamp Airport to support this? Understanding that Wellcamp does have a fire fighting capability (3 international cargo flights per week atm). Would it be the same with passenger planes coming in?

We also understand we would need Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure approval to designate the airports as international airports, and would welcome advice about the specific process for this and timeframes.

Quarantine facilities

We would also welcome advice about what specific requirements the Cth would have for any quarantine facility (for example, the specific accommodation numbers and requirements for ABF/ADF/AFP personnel, based on the above scenarios).

Thanks so much for you assistance to date.

Kind regards



Jessica Collins
 Executive Director
Intergovernmental Relations and Policy Futures
 Department of the Premier and Cabinet

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Premier of Queensland
Minister for Trade

For reply please quote: *SocPol/SL – TF/21/1826 – DOC/21/16810*

29 January 2021

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The Honourable Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
PO Box 6022
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

As our nation contends with new and highly infectious strains of COVID-19, we must continue to work in partnership to examine and consider every possible measure to keep people safe.

Further to my previous letter of 22 January 2021 and our discussions on that date, I write regarding the Queensland Government's ongoing consideration of the establishment of a regional non-hotel COVID-19 quarantine facility.

It is our position that we need to ensure the future safety and security of our citizens.

We consider that regional quarantine facilities, such as those proposed at Wellcamp and Central Queensland, could provide a safe and secure means of not only quarantining returning Australians, but also best protecting the Queensland community.

A further advantage of a regional quarantine facility would be the ability to accommodate all staff onsite, drastically reducing the risk of a COVID-19 community outbreak, particularly from the highly infectious strains of the United Kingdom, South America or South Africa.

Specifically, I enclose further information, commercial in confidence, regarding the Wellcamp and Central Queensland quarantine options.

As you may be aware, this regional quarantine concept is consistent with the recommendation of the Halton Review for the Commonwealth to consider establishing a national facility for quarantine.

While our current hotel quarantine arrangements in Queensland have worked well, we must be ready for any scenario, particularly given the havoc wreaked by new strains of COVID-19 overseas.

The Queensland Government is continuing its detailed assessment of the viability of identified options, including undertaking risk assessments and engagement with key stakeholders. Officials from the Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) have also had several detailed and productive discussions with their counterparts in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) on the matter.

I am seeking your in-principle agreement on a number of measures that allow for a regional quarantine facility in Queensland to be viable, subject to adequate community consultation.

Central to the viability of a regional quarantine facility would be your agreement to help facilitate a number of international flights diverting to previously discussed regional locations.

In addition, you may also wish to continue exploring Federal Government-facilitated flight arrivals of up to 200 passengers per week (400 passengers in total per week) arriving on a large aircraft, such as a Boeing 777, to bring Australians home to their families.

In implementing a regional quarantine facility, a number of requirements are needed from the Civil Aviation Safety Agency (CASA) advice, including:

- the safe capacity and capability at both Wellcamp and Rockhampton Airport to receive such flights
- whether there is a need for a new air traffic control tower at Wellcamp
- on ground capability (including from ABF, ADF and other Federal entities) to be established to facilitate these new flights at both proposed sites
- whether additional resources would be required to support appropriate fire and emergency service capabilities at the airports.

We also understand that the Federal Department of Infrastructure would be required to designate the airports as international airports, and that airport owner approval would be required.

As you can appreciate, these are critical issues that must be settled before the viability of options can be fully ascertained.

In addition, we are also seeking further information on what Federal Government support and resourcing, including financial contribution, will be made available at both the airport and the quarantine facility, including for:

- processing of international arrivals
- necessary capital works for essential service infrastructure
- health and welfare services (for example, hospital/primary care services and other health/welfare supports)
- facility operation (for example, health and security personnel, transport, catering, maintenance, ICT systems, financial administration/invoicing, data reporting, etc).

As you would be aware, the Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Mr Dave Stewart, will be meeting with the Secretary of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Mr Philip Gaetjens, shortly to further discuss these issues so that we may continue to progress the proposals.

The Queensland Government looks forward to your in-principle agreement on these important matters.

Yours sincerely



**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND
MINISTER FOR TRADE**



Premier of Queensland
Minister for Trade

For reply please quote: SocPol/SK – TF/21/1285 – DOC/21/10509

22 JAN 2021

The Honourable Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15185 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7000
Email ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au
Website www.thepremier.qld.gov.au

Dear Prime Minister

As raised at National Cabinet, I write to you regarding the Queensland Government's consideration for the establishment of a regional non-hotel COVID-19 quarantine facility.

Currently, Queensland's hotel quarantine system comprises hotels in large, populated urban locations. Discrete regional locations, carefully vetted and with local support, may provide a viable option to further support our quarantine capacity, and ensure the continued return of appropriate numbers of Australians. This is also consistent with the Halton Review of Hotel Quarantine (recommendation four), which sought consideration of options for new models of quarantine.

Several regional options are being carefully considered by the Queensland Government. However, it has become clear that the operation of any such facility will require partnership between state and federal levels of government to overcome several critical challenges.

This includes confirmation that the Federal Government would be able to facilitate international airlines flying directly into regional Queensland airports such as Rockhampton Airport or Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport, to ensure passengers arrive in proximity to any proposed facility. In addition, international arrivals into regional airports would also require Federal resources for the passenger processing, as well as continued Australian Defence Force support at any proposed facility.

The Director-General of the Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Mr Dave Stewart, is available to speak to the Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Mr Philip Gaetjens, directly on this matter to provide further details. I look forward to productive discussions continuing as we look to strengthen our critical quarantine systems.

Yours sincerely

ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND
MINISTER FOR TRADE