

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Question Number: 1-7

Output Number: Opening Statement

Date: 15/06/2021

From: Mr Yingiya Mark Guyula

To: Hon Michael Gunner

Portfolio: Chief Minister

Agency: Chief Minister and Cabinet

Subject: Border control resources in remote communities

QUESTION:

What resources and support have been provided to Gove for interstate travellers? What border controls are in place for vehicles coming into remote communities? For example, who is stopping cars and checking where they are coming from on the Central Arnhem Highway? What resources are being made available for this?

ANSWER:

All interstate flights landing in Gove are met by NT Police and Public Health Officials. Anyone identified as needing to quarantine continues on the aircraft to Darwin to undertake quarantine in the Howard Springs facility. Interstate arrivals are not permitted to quarantine in Gove. Currently, all arrivals into the Northern Territory are required to complete a border entry form, and each form is checked by either NT Police, Border Control Units or Public Health at the airport. All vessels go to Darwin Harbour if arriving from overseas or interstate. They are not to land, anchor or moor elsewhere in the Northern Territory unless it is an emergency or they have received prior approval from the Chief Health Officer. Australia Border Force monitor all international vessels arriving into Australian waters.

One Health full-time equivalent and up to two Police full-time equivalent staff are in the team that meet arrivals at Gove airport. Case by case, if required, staff meet and assess maritime arrivals to Gove.

There is an ongoing risk assessment around arrivals from interstate by road. NT Police have deployed automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) systems and conduct compliance checks on a regular basis. The Barkly Highway by the Northern Territory/Queensland border is staffed 24/7. A total of eight full-time equivalent staff monitor remote Territory border crossings, this is:

- five full-time equivalent staff on Barkly Highway; and
- three Full-time equivalent staff in the Emergency Operations Centre across automatic number plate recognition and investigations.

Officers from remote police stations that sit along or are close to interstate borders are regularly patrolling along arterial roads.