Extract from Hansard

[COUNCIL — Thursday, 10 September 2020] p5681c-5682a

Hon Colin Tincknell; Hon Stephen Dawson

892. Hon COLIN TINCKNELL to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many applications has the government received from people seeking to enter WA on compassionate grounds since the hard border closure was implemented?
- (2) How many of these applications received approval to enter WA?
- (3) Is the government aware of how many people have entered WA without making a formal application?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Police. The Western Australia Police Force advises the following.

- (1)–(2) As part of its response to protecting the community from COVID-19, the Western Australia Police Force gave priority to developing processes that allowed the timely processing of applications for entry. The first five months of managing entry to the state were based on ensuring the systems and processes were in place to assist the Western Australian community. The G2G PASS has been critical to this process and placed Western Australia ahead of other states. The priority was to keep the community safe and support the State Emergency Coordinator and the police to manage the borders rather than to collect data. Now the state has systems, processes and procedures in place, the WA Police Force is looking at data collection options that do not require daily manual counting.
- (3) Travellers are encouraged to apply prior to entry into Western Australia on G2G PASS or the "WA Entry" application. Applications are regularly made and assessed upon presentations at border arrival points—airports, ports and road borders. Statistics are not recorded on the number of persons presenting before making an application.