

COMMENTS FROM THE CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER

1. The paper and associated attachments have been reviewed. The paper makes a series of recommendations but does not identify any fundamental flaws in the air handling systems that would prevent the use of any currently used or planned hotels (e.g. the Adnate Hotel).
2. The SHICC assessment at Appendix 2 of the PDF Engineering & Glossop Consulting reports has provided a risk stratification of the 10 hotels concerned, including 3 moderate risk and 3 high risk hotels. As outlined in the analysis report, these risks can be mitigated either by closure or by application of various administrative or engineering measures, some of which have been or are being implemented.
3. It is acknowledged that the SHICC has the capacity to manage up to 9 hotels due to staffing and other constraints. It is also recognised that there is an imperative from the State Government to bring in a further 900-1000 seasonal workers from low risk south-west pacific countries, to supplement the 800 who have already arrived in 2021.
4. Assessment of the 3 higher risk hotels indicates that the Mercure Hotel is probably the most difficult to mitigate, given positive pressure rooms, opening windows and the age of the facility. This hotel, however, could be utilised for lower risk cohorts.
5. On these grounds, and after assessment of the analysis and the reports, the following is proposed:
 - The recommendations are agreed and will be progressively implemented across all quarantine hotels.
 - The Four Points Hotel will be retained, CCTV installed and will transition back to a normal SHICC hotel.
 - The Mercure Hotel will be closed a SHICC hotel, but CCTV will be completed, and consideration be given to its use, at least in the interim, as a DPIRD contracted hotel for low risk international agricultural workers.
 - Further consideration will be given to the timing of the transition from these respective hotels, noting timings of CCTV installation and the Adnate coming on board.
 - The Chief Health Officer will liaise with the State Emergency Controller on the next steps for the proposed transitions.



Dr Andrew Robertson
CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER
14 April 2020