

Purpose Built Quarantine Centres

Issue

What will the purpose-built quarantine centres (the Centres for National Resilience) be used for given the COVID-19 global health emergency is over?

Headline Response

The Centres for National Resilience provide Australia with enduring capacity to respond to future events, focussed on short-term quarantine and disaster response.

Talking Points

- The Centres for National Resilience have played an important role in Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and reflect the cooperative partnership between the Australian Government and State governments.
- The Department of Finance is responsible for the ongoing care and maintenance of the Centres for National Resilience in Perth s22 .

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- In November and December 2023, the Australian Government provided the Centre for National Resilience Perth in Bullsbrook to the Western Australian (WA) Government, for emergency accommodation to support those affected by the bushfires in the northern suburbs of Perth.

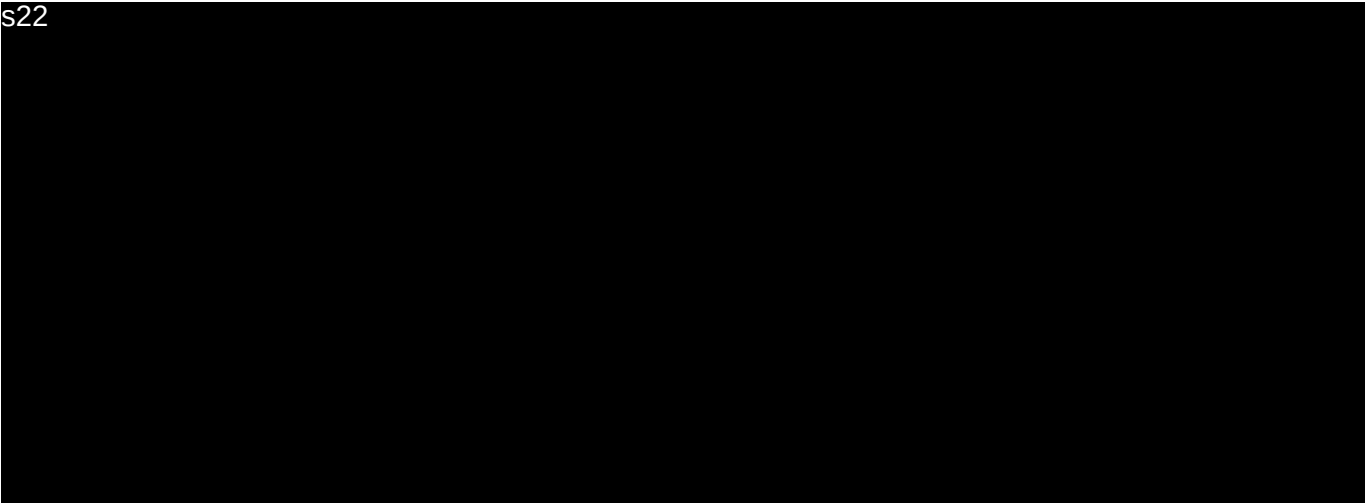
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- The Australian Government continues to consider alternate uses for the Centres.

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Past use and current arrangements

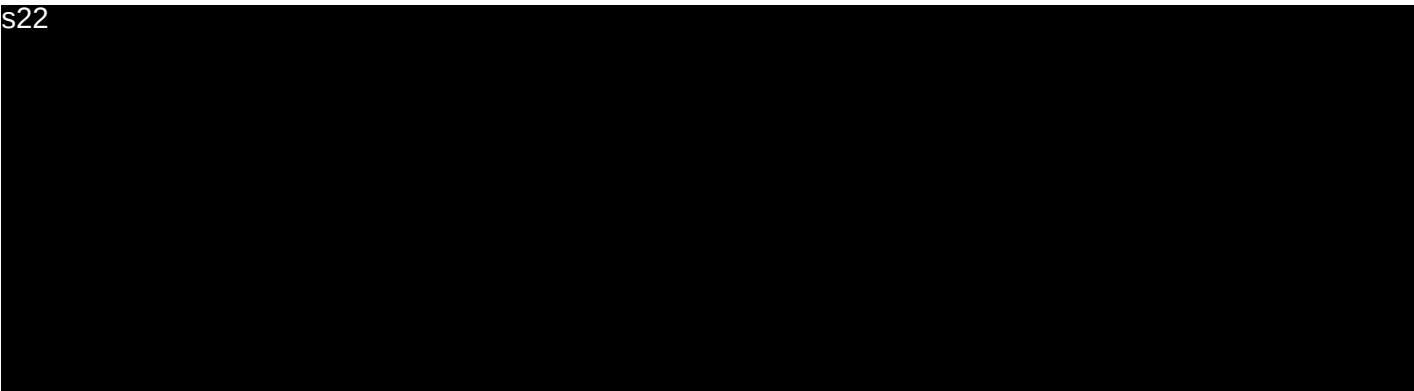
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Perth

- The Western Australian Government (WA Government) operated the Centre for National Resilience Perth (Perth Centre) for one year from October 2022 to October 2023.
- The Perth Centre was activated for six weeks from November 2023 as emergency accommodation in response to the WA bushfires. Approximately 70 people were accommodated as part of bushfire relief efforts.
- The Australian Government made the Centre available to support potential use during the high-risk weather season (from December 2024 to April 2025).
- The Australian Government continues to consider alternate options for use of the Perth Centre.

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If asked about using the Centres for National Resilience for social or temporary housing

- There are a range of challenges with using the Centres for National Resilience (Centres) for social or temporary housing, including the following key issues:
 - o The location of each of the Centres lacks proximity to public transport, healthcare, shops and other support services;
 - o The design and layout of the Centres does not include communal facilities, and individual units do not have kitchens or laundry facilities; and
 - o The cost to run the Centres is significant given the infection-prevention and control design and mechanics that are built in.

Policy commitments

The Centres are currently being maintained and are available to respond to a range of Australian Government and State policy objectives, assisting agencies across governments to stand up capability and capacity for a variety of uses.

Following release of the COVID-19 Response Inquiry Report, the Government is considering a response, including for the development of the National Quarantine Strategy. Finalisation of the National Quarantine Strategy is expected to have implications for how the Centres are managed and used in the future.

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