

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS — HUAWEI

11. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question.

- (1) Why does the Premier continue to downplay the concerns with this contract and continue to claim that this is just a train telephone system when he was advised on 2 July last year that it is so much more?
- (2) Why does he continue to mislead the house about his knowledge of the other components of this contract?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(2) The member for Scarborough clearly does not understand. There are two contracts; the previous government separated them. In fact, there is only one contract. The previous government separated out any consideration of automatic train control and entered into the radio system replacement project.

A tender process went out and the winning bidder is the winning bidder. We sought security advice. The opposition seems to think that there should have been some political interference by the government to overturn a tender process and the advice of ASIO. That seems to be the opposition's position.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine!

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member for Scarborough is promoting a very odd position. It is also very odd that she is sitting next to the Leader of the Opposition, who is a foreign citizen with a tax bill to a foreign government! Seriously! Does the member not think that the opposition has a few issues? The Minister for Transport raised Hon Jim Chown, the opposition's security expert in the upper house. I have a copy of his parliamentary travel report from when he visited Huawei. It states —

I accepted an invitation from the Australia Chinese Business Council ... and Huawei Australia to visit China —

Mrs L.M. Harvey: Who else was on the trip?

Mr M. McGOWAN: Paul Miles was!

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cottesloe!

Mr M. McGOWAN: It continues —

(Shenzhen and Shanghai). Founded in China, Huawei is world leader in the field of ICT, achieving revenue of approximately USD 46.5 billion in 2014 and USD 28.3 billion this calendar year. It holds the current and achievable vision of being the first to revolutionise ICT infrastructure to 5G, while concurrently strengthening cybersecurity.

Hon Jim Chown has done a backflip, one would have to say, considering what he said the other day in the paper compared with the report that he tabled in Parliament.

The government has gone through every proper process and every bit of due diligence that would be expected in relation to this. It has done everything it could conceivably do to protect the public interest, including getting the agreement of the federal government and consultation with the Prime Minister's office and the home affairs minister's office. If members opposite want to criticise the Prime Minister and Peter Dutton, be my guest.