

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS — HUAWEI

**574. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Transport:**

I note the minister's awarding of the \$136 million contract to Huawei for the radio system replacement and the Premier's response to questions in Parliament that he had no understanding of national security concerns on the automatic train control system and was not briefed on the emergency communication system until 12 July, after the Huawei contract was signed.

- (1) Why was the Premier not briefed about national security concerns around the emergency communication system until after the Public Transport Authority signed the Huawei contract?
- (2) Why did the minister not take this politically sensitive contract to cabinet, given national security concerns?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for that question. As members would be aware, I was not here last week but I have been advised by my colleagues that the premise of the member's question is totally false in relation to the answers provided by the Premier. I want to go to this issue and the complete hypocrisy of the opposition. The opposition was offered a briefing, which it took. On 5 July, three members of Parliament and four advisers received that briefing. One of the advisers took a photo of official documents. When my office contacted the Leader of the Opposition's office to ask whether that happened, the Leader of the Opposition's office said it did not happen. I read in last week's *Hansard* that when the Premier said that a photo was taken, the member for Scarborough said, "Rubbish! Prove it!" That is what she said. We now later find —

**Mrs L.M. Harvey:** It was deleted. There was an attempt —

Several members interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The member comes in here and asks about national security —

**Mrs L.M. Harvey:** When he was advised that it was confidential, he deleted it and it was not circulated.

**The SPEAKER:** Have you finished your comment? I call you to order for the third time, member for Scarborough. It is not a chat-fest.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The opposition was given a significant briefing. I cannot remember ever receiving one when we were in opposition. We gave them a briefing and it was outlined at the beginning that these were official documents, not to be photographed —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Nedlands, you know the protocol in this chamber. I call you to order for the first time.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The adviser took a photo but claimed he did not take a photo. The Leader of the Opposition's office said they did not take a photo. The member for Scarborough came in here and when the Premier said a photo was taken, she said, "Rubbish! Prove it!" The Leader of the Opposition came out and said, "We did take a photo but we deleted it. We took a photo because the member for Scarborough needed to see it because she was not at the briefing." They are the mistruths members opposite said about this issue. Members opposite then misled about the content of the stolen document. Not only did they steal the document, they misled about doing it and then misquoted it. Do not talk to me in this place about national security. We did everything right in that example. We sought clearance from the federal agencies. We triple-checked it. We briefed members of the opposition and what did they do? They abused that. They do not care about national security. They photographed an official document and then came out and said they did not take the photo.