

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS — HUAWEI

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

I refer to the question I asked about Huawei on 14 August 2018, querying the Premier's knowledge of security issues regarding the automatic train control system. His response was —

I am unaware of what the member is referring to.

- (1) Can the Premier confirm that he received a briefing note from the Office of State Security and Emergency Coordination on 2 July 2018, which was over a month before his answer to Parliament?
- (2) Can the Premier confirm that in that briefing note, under the title "Security Risks", an entire section is allocated to the risks associated with the automatic train control system, including a warning that "interference with ATC could be severe".

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(2) I am unaware of whatever dates the member is referring to, but I am aware that the project the government has entered into is the radio system replacement project. It is not the automated train control project. It is a completely different project. Clearly, the member for Scarborough does not understand the difference. I also note—thank you to the Minister for Transport—that the automatic train control project was separated from the radio replacement program in 2013–14, when the member was in cabinet.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: Obviously, the member for Scarborough was not paying much attention back then. The radio system replacement project is a closed system and is a 4G system. It is in operation in various parts of the world and it runs the Sydney trains. It is a communication system between train drivers and their headquarters. Prior to the Public Transport Authority entering into this contract, there was a tender process in which the winning bidder came out as the number one tenderer. We asked the federal government—the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation—whether there were any security concerns. It indicated that there were no security concerns. After that, or around that time, Rear Admiral John Lord, who is the Australian head of Huawei, met with the Prime Minister's office and the Minister for Home Affairs' office, which confirmed they had no concerns about this.

If the opposition wants to keep on doing this, it can keep on doing this, but those are the facts behind this matter.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Member for Churchlands!

Mr M. McGOWAN: There was a proper tender process and ASIO advice. The company itself got advice from the federal government, including the Prime Minister's office and the Minister for Home Affairs' office, I am advised, and no concerns were expressed.