

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS — HUAWEI

41. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the media release and questions and answers produced by the minister's department to announce the awarding of the Metronet radio replacement project to controversial Chinese company Huawei.

- (1) Why did the minister not issue the media release, thereby withholding information from the people of Western Australia about this highly contentious decision?
- (2) Was it the Premier or the minister's decision to treat this controversial decision as "too hot to handle"?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(2) No information was withheld from the public in relation to the announcement of that contract. Secondly, the opposition got a briefing. The reason we held off on the announcement was that we wanted to make sure the opposition had a briefing. It occurred —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: As I recall, in opposition, I never received a briefing from the government on any matter. Let me go through it again. We invited the opposition for a briefing. A number of shadows and staff members were there and they got a full briefing.

Mr W.R. Marmion interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Nedlands!

Mr P.C. Tinley interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: There was a full briefing —

The SPEAKER: Minister! Not you; you are all right this time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: You have to reduce the scope!

There was a full briefing and the opposition got all the details and an announcement was made once the contract was signed. That is it. Again, this is an opposition that comes here with half-truths. Yesterday, the whole basis of question time was about two sentences that were redacted and the opposition had made it up. The opposition's whole attack was based on information it made up.