

HUAWEI — STATE SOLICITOR'S OFFICE — ADVICE

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

I refer to the alarming comments made by the State Solicitor in the Public Accounts Committee public hearings this morning that the State Solicitor's Office was not asked for and did not provide any advice on the awarding of a \$200-million contract to Huawei, a company with significant national and international security concerns.

- (1) Why was the advice of the State Solicitor's Office not sought on this major contract?
- (2) Will the minister refer the contract to the State Solicitor for advice?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(3) I thank the member for that question. I did not hear the advice given in the committee hearing this morning. I know there is a cross-government team involving the State Solicitor's Office, Treasury, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Public Transport Authority in the governance of this contract. The PTA has received its own legal advice and that is what it has been doing in the past. That is what I understand to be the case. Again, if members opposite have any particular issues about that contract, they should bring them to Parliament and we will debate them once again.