

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS — HUAWEI

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

I have a supplementary question. Can the minister confirm that the network core of the Huawei project will have to be replaced at additional cost to meet national security concerns regarding the emergency communication system? Once again, will the minister explain why this politically sensitive contract was not taken to cabinet?

**The SPEAKER:** It is a supplementary; you get only one question. The first part, minister.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

As the Premier outlined last week, we enter into hundreds of contracts. We do not sit around cabinet —

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** I remember when the Leader of the Opposition took the Telstra contract to cabinet when he had Telstra shares. I remember that. I remember the insurance issue with QBE when QBE had been awarded a contract and the Leader of the Opposition had QBE shares. I remember that.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** I do not know how the previous government operated—well, we do know that, because it blew \$40 billion—but it sat around cabinet giving contracts to mates. Is that what members did? They sat around saying, “Look, in awarding this contract, I’ll give it to somebody else.” Is that what they would do? That is what they believe we should be doing. They believe we should be awarding contracts then changing our decisions just because we know a bloke. That is not how we do it. That is not how this government does it. We have a proper procurement process.

**The SPEAKER:** That is the end of question time.