

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS — HUAWEI

**508. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:**

I refer to the government's awarding of the \$136 million communications contract to Chinese company Huawei, which the government characterises as "communications for train drivers". Will the Premier now come clean with the people of Western Australia and confirm that the infrastructure that Huawei will build and operate will be utilised for the future automatic train control system?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

As I understand it, the existing contract has around 80 separate security measures to ensure that the system is secure when it comes to any alternative uses for it. As I also understand it, if there are to be any changes to the current arrangement, they would be renegotiated. However, the minister is not here, and no doubt she would have more detail on that.

I understand what the member is trying to do. She thinks she has a smoking gun on this, but the fact of the matter is that it was an independent process of government; it was independent of the cabinet. We do not go out there saying that we want this, that or the other company based upon whatever considerations we might think are appropriate. We allow proper process to take its course. I might add that these contracts were decided in that way when the Liberal Party was in government. The opposition seems to have a difficulty because the company is Chinese. I might add that the company has an Australian partner. I might also add that we received advice from the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, no less, that there were no issues with this contract. Although the opposition might be out there trying to stir up trouble, it might want to think that on these sorts of issues we got all the advice and sought assurances from the commonwealth government before we allowed the Public Transport Authority to go down the course of issuing any contract.