

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES — PAUL WHYTE

**1478. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Community Services:**

I thought we may have entered the troppo zone just a bit too early then!

I refer to the minister's recent answers concerning Mr Paul Whyte, the allegedly corrupt former senior public servant at the Department of Communities, who acted as director general in the minister's department, and the concerns the current Treasurer had about Mr Whyte back in 2016.

- (1) Did the minister raise with Mr Searle any concerns she had about Mr Whyte's appointment as the acting director general, Department of Communities?
- (2) If yes to (1), when?
- (3) If no to (1), why not?
- (4) As Minister for Communities, did she at any time raise concerns with any person about any probity or non-probity concerns she had about Mr Paul Whyte?
- (5) If yes to (4), when and with whom?
- (6) If no to (4), why not?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(6) Under the Public Sector Management Act 1994, the former director general, Mr Grahame Searle, delegated his duties to Mr Paul Whyte at his discretion. I accepted Mr Searle's advice on this occasion, given Mr Whyte's various periods of acting as director general for the Department of Regional Development and the Housing Authority between 2014 and 2017.