

PILBARA PORTS AUTHORITY — ODYSSEY MARINE

1033. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the Minister for Ports:

I refer to previous answers provided by the minister regarding her request of the Pilbara Ports Authority for contractual documents relating to Odyssey Marine.

- (1) Who raised concerns with the minister about the PPA and Odyssey Marine's contractual dealings that precipitated her request to access the contracts?
- (2) On what date were those concerns raised?
- (3) What were the prima facie probity questions concerning the circumstances of the contractual dealings the minister believes warranted investigation?
- (4) When did the minister formally request advice and documentation from the PPA, of whom did she make that request, and will she table a copy of that request; and, if not, why not?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

- (1)–(4) I point out again to the member that I thank the member for the question, but I find it really curious that a minister seeking advice in response to some concerns raised by people is somehow or other considered inappropriate.

Hon Tjorn Sibma: Put my mind at ease then, minister.

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: I am more than happy to let the member know. As he knows, those documents — Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Just let the minister respond, please.

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: The concerns were raised with me by the members of the Maritime Union of Australia —

Several members interjected.

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: Yes, a stakeholder! I can tell members that issues are raised to me by port users, port employees and different stakeholders all the time about activities on ports.

The concerns were raised with me by the Maritime Union of Australia on several occasions after I was allocated responsibility for ports. The concerns related to a change in control of a Pilbara Ports licence holder and the actions taken by the Pilbara Ports Authority in consenting to the change in control and granting a subsequent licence. Having considered advice and documentation provided by the PPA on the matter, I sought advice from the State Solicitor's Office. In order to finalise that advice, my chief of staff on my behalf formally requested the PPA CEO provide a number of documents. As I stated yesterday, this request was made on 1 May 2019. I table a copy of the email exchange. The legal advice concluded that the PPA did not act unlawfully and I consider the matter closed.

[See paper 3059.]