

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES — PAUL WHYTE

1461. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Community Services:

I refer to the answer to my question asked yesterday concerning Mr Paul Whyte acting as the director general at the Department of Communities.

- (1) Was the minister made aware that Mr Paul Whyte was to act in the role of director general of the department prior to him taking up the position?
- (2) If yes to (1), who advised the minister?
- (3) Did the minister raise any concerns with any person regarding Mr Paul Whyte acting in the role of director general of the department; and, if not, why not?
- (4) Did the minister discuss the appointment of Mr Paul Whyte as acting director general with any other minister?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1)–(4) The minister was advised by the former director general Mr Grahame Searle that Mr Whyte, who had previously acted as director general a number of times across multiple agencies in the previous government, was to act in the role. Under the Public Sector Management Act 1994, the director general has the authority to delegate his or her duties to a public service officer of their choosing.