

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS — HUAWEI

**829. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to my questions without notice of 23 August and 12 September, requesting the public release of the Public Transport Authority's tender evaluation report for the radio system replacement project that recommended Huawei UGL as the preferred proponent.

- (1) When did the PTA seek advice on the "legality, probity and confidentiality issues around the release of the evaluation report"; and from whom is advice being sought?
- (2) When does the PTA anticipate receiving this advice?
- (3) Who was responsible for making the decision to either release or withhold the tender evaluation report from public scrutiny?
- (4) Additionally, will the minister table a copy of the contract with Huawei UGL?

**Hon ALANNA CLOHESY replied:**

I answer on behalf of the minister representing the Minister for Transport. I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The Public Transport Authority commenced seeking procurement policy advice, probity advice and legal advice on 23 August 2018 from the PTA's chief financial officer, the project's independent probity adviser and the agency's general counsel. Subsequently, the PTA also sought advice from the Department of Finance as the state's procurement policy experts.
- (2) Advice has now been received that the tender evaluation report is confidential. As a result, the minister has requested that the PTA seeks the State Solicitor's advice as to whether a copy can be released with redactions.
- (3) The Minister for Transport is taking into consideration advice from all relevant stakeholders.
- (4) The minister has requested that the PTA seeks advice with regard to this additional request.