

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES — PAUL WHYTE —
MEMBER FOR VICTORIA PARK'S COMMENTS

1552. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Community Services:

I refer to corruption allegations made against Mr Paul Whyte, lately of the Department of Communities, the concerns the current Treasurer had about Mr Whyte back in 2016 and the minister's answer given on 28 November 2019 that "I accepted Mr Searle's advice on this occasion", regarding the period Mr Whyte acted as the department's director general.

- (1) Was the minister aware of the concerns the Treasurer had about Mr Whyte at the time she accepted Mr Searle's advice?
- (2) If so, why did she accept the advice of Mr Searle?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1)–(2) The now Treasurer in opposition raised concerns for the former Liberal–National government to investigate. Given the former Liberal–National government trusted Mr Whyte to provide the formal response to the concerns raised by the Public Accounts Committee, it was assumed that the former Liberal–National government had examined the matters raised. If the honourable member has information to the contrary, I would welcome him sharing it.