

MINISTER FOR PORTS — STAFF

1187. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the Minister for Ports:

An attachment to an answer the minister provided me on 18 September 2019 revealed an email exchange between staff in the minister's office and senior executives of the Pilbara Ports Authority on 30 April 2019.

- (1) What role does or did Ms Karen Wheatland, who is included in the email exchange, perform in the minister's office?
- (2) Was or is Ms Wheatland previously or currently an organiser for the Maritime Union of Australia?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1) Ms Wheatland was a policy adviser in my office from 29 April to 31 May 2019 while my ports policy adviser, Mark Brownell, was on leave.
- (2) No. However, because I know that Hon Tjorn Sibma expects me to answer questions that he has not yet asked, I will add: although Karen has never worked as an organiser for the Maritime Union of Australia, Karen was engaged for one day a week in 2004 and 2005 as a women's liaison officer by the MUA while she was an active maritime trainer and assessor. Karen has around 14 years' experience in the maritime industry.