



Speech by

Hon. STEVE BREDHAUER

MEMBER FOR COOK

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
Queensland Rail, Coal Freight

Hon. S. D. BREDHAUER (Cook—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads) (10.04 a.m.), by leave: I am delighted to be able to advise that QR's coal services have recorded another outstanding year. In the 2000-01 financial year, QR railed a record 127.8 million tonnes of coal. This was 13.3 million tonnes, or 11.7 per cent, higher than the previous peak set in 1999-2000. QR has achieved this tremendous result through working closely with the coal industry and by improving the productivity of its coal fleet and rail infrastructure. QR's focus on teamwork as an integrated railway has enabled it to achieve this record, which is the highest single-commodity tonnage hauled by any railway operator in Australia, whether privately or publicly owned. It consolidates QR's standing as one of the world's great heavy haul railways. In particular, export tonnages continue to grow strongly, up 13 million tonnes to 117.5 million tonnes. These exports earn Queensland around \$6 billion annually in foreign exchange.

Tonnage growth from the mines in the Bowen Basin in central Queensland has again powered the surge in railings of export coal. The Goonyella system, which serves Hay Point and Dalrymple Bay south of Mackay, hauled 69.3 million tonnes, up six million tonnes. The Blackwater system and Moura line to Gladstone were also strong performers, with haulage of 35.7 million tonnes of export coal, up 5.9 million tonnes. The McNaughton-Newlands system to Abbott Point near Bowen carried 10.1 million tonnes, up 0.9 million tonnes. There was also an increase in railings in south-east Queensland to Fisherman Islands from 2.1 million to 2.4 million tonnes.

There has been a significant increase in railing demand over the last few months, and QR expects this to continue. To service this growing business, QR is planning to increase its coal wagon fleet. The productivity improvements in the coal fleet have been gained through QR's ongoing substantial investment in new locomotives and wagons and by modifications in fleet operations. Over the past three years, over 2,000 new coal wagons have been added to the fleet and the new 4000-class diesel locomotives are improving fleet flexibility and efficiency. QR continues to provide the vital link between the state's coalmines and ports, as well as to a number of domestic destinations. It operates this link in conjunction with all the users in the mine-rail-terminals chain. This close working arrangement is producing benefits for all the chain participants.

QR also participates in a number of cooperative study groups to solve industry-specific issues. An example is the recent Cooperative Centre for Rail Research, or CRC, which involves QR, other Australian railways, several universities and the rail industry. The CRC has received substantial funding to investigate a number of rail issues, including coal transport-specific issues. QR continues to work closely with its coal customers to strive for even greater efficiencies. This will enable even greater coal tonnages to be exported which will benefit not only QR and the coal industry but also the state as a whole.
