



Speech by

Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Wednesday, 10 September 2008

QUEENSLAND RAIL, SAFETY

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—NPA) (11.31 am): We have a transport minister missing in action, allowing the lives of commuters and workers to be put at risk because his department has not taken the necessary steps to ensure Queensland Rail is meeting its safety responsibilities. What is the minister for transport's response? To act only once the issue becomes public, distancing himself from his responsibility, but in doing so only highlighting the inaction of his predecessor, the now Deputy Premier, Paul Lucas, who held the portfolio for the previous number of years. If Mr Mickel is trying to say it is not his fault, he must be saying it is the fault of his colleague, Mr Paul Lucas.

Mr MICKEL: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I thought the standing order that the opposition insisted on was that members be addressed by their correct title. We have had two instances already in less than a minute where the honourable member for Maroochydore—who has been here for almost 16 years—has gone against that standing order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Darling): Thank you, Minister. The member for Maroochydore will refer to the minister by his correct title.

Miss SIMPSON: If transport minister Mickel is trying to say it is not his fault, he must be saying it is the fault of his colleague, the now Deputy Premier, Paul Lucas. The Beattie-Bligh government's ongoing lack of timely action on the critical issue of rail safety has been exposed. I call for an independent inquiry into Queensland Rail's safety culture following damning revelations exposed by a leaked internal report. The Zero Harm Communications Strategy and Implementation Plan clearly points to a systemic failure by QR's management to enforce an adequate safety culture. The report states that its overall findings suggest a poor safety culture in QR where safety systems and processes are not being used, with the array of deficiencies suggesting there is a comprehensive breakdown of basic 'good housekeeping' in terms of safety requirements. QR must examine its priorities and realise that day-to-day safety procedures must be followed.