



Speech by

Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Wednesday, 22 April 2009

TILT TRAIN

Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (11.55 am): Last year the Labor government tried to cover up the gravy train fiasco. This term it has the ghost train fiasco—the tilt train which mysteriously does not go anywhere, the reasons for which it is desperate to hide. The shroud of secrecy surrounding the real reasons for the tilt train's cancellation has more to do with the government protecting itself than the public. Labor cover-ups usually are about Labor self-protection.

In her first test as minister, Rachel Nolan has resorted to Labor's traditional game of smoke and mirrors. The transport minister's ongoing refusal to release the full information on the cancellation, claiming legal reasons, is looking more and more flimsy. The fatal tilt train accident, which was a tragedy, occurred in November last year but the minister is yet to reveal when she became aware of the ongoing safety concerns and the full reasons for the cancellation which happened at Easter. I am calling on her to urgently reveal this information, otherwise the truth will be conveniently hidden under a cone of silence of the government's creation.

Labor's refusal to release information has the question arising in the community about what the government is trying to cover up. People have a right to know the real reasons surrounding the ongoing cancellation. Minister Rachel Nolan has a responsibility to be open and accountable to the people. This is a sad indication of what is in store for the department of transport, at a time when Queenslanders are demanding more from transport services across the state; namely, high levels of safety and efficiency.