



Speech by

Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Wednesday, 28 October 2009

QUEENSLAND RAIL

Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (11.40 am): On Friday, 30 per cent of Citytrain services failed to run on time and on Monday, 20 per cent of services failed to run on time in peak periods due to point and signal failures. On the weekend, services on the Cleveland, Ipswich and Gold Coast lines were reported as disrupted due to signal and track faults. Last month a slow-travelling train fell off the tracks here in Brisbane.

Is this decaying rail service, with its appalling on-time performance and poor maintenance, how the Minister for Transport defines world-class performance? What we are seeing with this system as it continues to fail is an impact upon passengers and upon freight. Yes, there were storms on Tuesday later in the day which were to blame for some of the disruption but not the earlier incidents I mentioned. What we are seeing is an increasing rate of failure of the key services of Queensland. It is incredible to think that the transport minister is proposing huge hikes in fares when the current system that public transport users want to use is not meeting their needs. People are furious to think they are being forced to use overcrowded trains when frequently services fail to arrive, yet this government is proposing a new system of significant fare increases without addressing the failure in the maintenance and performance of this system.

Where has been the explanation from the transport minister with regard to the derailment? Where has been the explanation as to the failures in the maintenance of a system which people rely on? These are the basic services which government should oversee and ensure are properly upheld. Yet all we see from this government is a push to take more money off people for a service which clearly is not working and needs their attention.

(Time expired)