



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Moreton Bay Rail Link**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.31 am): I rise this morning to again draw the House's attention to the scheduled six-day closure in September of the Caboolture and Sunshine Coast railway line between Zillmere and Caboolture—all to allow for the integration of this government's failed Moreton Bay Rail Link project. The minister has asked Queenslanders, and South-East Queensland commuters in particular, to put their faith in him. He has told them that it will all be right, that it will all be okay for those six days of public transport chaos. He has told the public servants that they can work from home and that as a basis of that everything will be okay. He is telling us to have faith, but this is coming from the minister who told the people of Redcliffe that they would be catching the train to the Ekka. The Ekka has come and gone, but the rail line is not open. The people of Redcliffe have lost faith in the minister, and South-East Queensland commuters are very sceptical that this closure will actually work.

Let us look at the scale of this. If we use March's patronage figures, we see that 776,726 commuters used the Caboolture and Sunshine Coast railway line. If we do a straight deduction of that 31 days, it works out to be just over 25,000 movements a day. For six days, that will be 150,000 commuters—

**Mr Hinchliffe** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Leader of the House, if you persist with your interjections, you will be warned under standing order 253A.

**Mr POWELL:** That is 150,000 commuters who are facing chaos in getting to work. Think of all the buses that will be on the road. Think of all the extra traffic that will be on the road. Think of the extra time it will take. Commuters are not going to catch those buses. They are going to drive to Zillmere and create parking chaos around that station and stations further south. The minister wants us to trust him, yet the TMR officers briefing our members on this planned closure are doing little to instil confidence. They do not understand patronage movements, particularly around stations like Bald Hills and Carseldine in the electorate of Aspley.

The other day my kids came up with a suggestion. They said that the minister should consider phoning Sir Topham Hatt. Just in case members do not know who he is, he is the Fat Controller. He could call in Thomas the Tank Engine, and with his steam capabilities he could assist commuters. If the Fat Controller does not want to ring Thomas, maybe he could bring in Henry. Henry is a little bit vain but I am sure he would be willing to help out. If he does not want Henry, perhaps he could use Gordon. Gordon is a little grumpy but I am sure he will pitch in and help out. Then there is Edward. He is a lot like Thomas. He is keen and he is kind and he will help the minister get the commuters to work on time. The minister has asked us to have faith. Not likely. This closure is heading for disaster.