



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 1 November 2016

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.16 am): It has long been known that this Palaszczuk Labor government has their 'Captain Risky'; it is now very clear that they have their own 'Sergeant Schultz'—Sergeant 'I know nothing' Schultz. Quite frankly, Premier, how can you trust this minister to get the rail crisis right when he simply knows nothing. Over two weeks ago more than 50 rail services were suddenly cancelled with no explanation—zero. What did we hear from the minister? Zero. Nothing. Some 11 days ago more than 100 commuter services were cut across South-East Queensland. There was rail chaos for commuters across South-East Queensland. What did the minister say? 'I know nothing.' The Queensland Rail board met that weekend and what did the minister know? Nothing, because he was on the Gold Coast watching the Gold Coast 600.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I rise to a point of order. Alongside the other shareholding minister, as I explained to the House this morning, I was on a dial-in call to that board meeting.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is no point of order.

**Mr POWELL:** Not long after that Queensland Rail board meeting an interim timetable was released which cut more than 200 services across South-East Queensland. I might add that that interim timetable did not even make it to Friday of that week and again what did the minister say? 'I know nothing.' Services were cut on Sunday, and this time the minister did know something about it because the first commuters knew about it was through a tweet from the minister late on Saturday night. Last week the minister called for drivers and said there would not be a better time in the state of Queensland for people to apply to become drivers with Queensland Rail. Someone forgot to tell the minister that you have to work for Queensland Rail first before you can apply to be a driver with Queensland Rail. Again the minister knew nothing. In March an email was received from a concerned Queenslanders, but that is okay because the minister did not know about that either. Clearly someone in his office dealt with it. Today we have seen that back in January of this year Queensland Rail initiated an in-depth report into what was going on with trainer drivers in Queensland Rail, but it is okay because again we hear that the minister knows nothing.

Knowing nothing is as bad as being complicit in this complete and utter rail fail. The minister cannot be a Sergeant Schultz and constantly claim to know nothing. He needs to do the right thing: he needs to tender his resignation. If he does not, the Premier must sack him.