



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (2.52 pm): What an extraordinary sight we saw in this place yesterday. We saw a bungling transport minister get up to deliver not one, not two, but three ministerial statements to justify this rail crisis of his own making. He came into this House in the morning full of bravado. 'I am outraged,' he said. Like that was going to fix anything! Minister, outrage does not get commuters to work on time; outrage does not make up for the fact that you have been missing in action. 'I am outraged,' the minister said, 'but it is not my fault. I knew nothing.'

After the luncheon adjournment after the Melbourne Cup we then saw the minister slink back into the House a second time. I imagine that the minister, like many in this chamber, probably put a wager on the race, but I think the odds would have been far better had he bet on whether the trains would run on time that afternoon or not. He could have put a bet on Excess Knowledge, but after seeing his performance over the last week we know that would not be appropriate. A surer bet for the minister would have been Heartbreak City, because that is the collective feeling amongst commuters each time they sit on a platform waiting for a train to turn up that never, ever comes.

The minister came in to the House to say that he had been told there may be more disruptions to train services that afternoon as Queenslanders made their way home from work, but he could not say which services or how many. It is clear that the minister has not learned this lesson since the rail fail started. Third time lucky, the minister came into this place again just before pm peak hour to say that 20 services that afternoon would be disrupted because of 'unforeseen' driver shortages. I do not know where the minister has been for the last few days—in fact, the last few weeks—but it is pretty clear there are driver shortages in Queensland Rail. There are driver shortages in this state, and in fact it has been a long time coming. There is absolutely nothing 'unforeseen' about it at all. The minister then went on to say that it just occurred to him yesterday to ask for the reports and the advice that Queensland Rail had about this entire mess, and that is when he produced more evidence which pointed to the fact that there was no secret about the lack of drivers and no secret that this minister has had his head in the sand since day one. Commuters have had enough. It is time the Premier sacked this bungling transport minister and got the trains running on time.