



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 November 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Queensland Rail**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.40 am): My government is determined that Queensland Rail provides a safe and reliable passenger rail service for the travelling public. That is why we were so pleased that the Redcliffe peninsula line was launched into service on 4 October. That is why we are so furious about Queensland Rail's advice to government on Thursday, 20 October of the need to cancel or alter services the following day—Friday, 21 October. As the then chief executive officer of Queensland Rail, Helen Gluer, said last Monday, 24 October—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** If members want to interject, please do so in a way that I can identify you.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I quote—

My advice to the Minister prior to last Thursday was Queensland Rail absolutely believed it would be able to deliver the timetable as scheduled from the 4th of October, clearly we have got that wrong.

Let me make it clear: they got it wrong; the minister will get it right and the travelling public will get certainty. The minister and the Acting CEO of Queensland Rail, Neil Scales, are determined to ensure Queensland Rail implements the five-point plan announced last week. By the end of this week, a timetable for city passenger rail services to operate until the end of the year will be released. The timetable for services for next year will be developed ahead of the implementation of fairer fares for the travelling public in the New Year.

We are determined to ensure that there is a safe and reliable rail service for the travelling public. To get it right, we do need to get to the bottom of what went wrong.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, you are warned under standing order 253A for those interjections. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I have commissioned former Rio Tinto executive Phillip Strachan to investigate the matter thoroughly. After receiving the Indec report last night, my director-general has forwarded it immediately to Mr Strachan as part of his investigations. Mr Strachan has a three-month brief, and I expect progress reports and findings during that time. Mr Strachan will have my government's full cooperation. Today I request the full cooperation of both the member for Clayfield and the member for Indooroopilly as the Queensland Rail shareholding ministers on behalf of the former government.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Full cooperation.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the Premier.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Recommendation 15 of the Peter Costello Commission of Audit report handed to the member for Clayfield stated—

City passenger rail services and network infrastructure be opened up to contestability, like bus services, to allow different providers, including private providers, to bid to operate services and maintain below-rail assets in a particular franchised area under franchise and lease arrangements.

The then government's response to this recommendation of the Commission of Audit stated—

The Government accepts this recommendation for City Passenger services and rail infrastructure and notes that it is consistent with Government's current direction and will be considered as part of the ongoing reform activities in the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Furthermore, the 2013-14 annual report of Queensland Rail under the headline 'Market Readiness' stated—

This agenda aligns with the Queensland Government's response to recommendations relating to Queensland Rail set out in the Queensland Commission of Audit Final Report 2013.

When the then CEO of Queensland Rail, Helen Gluer, appeared before budget estimates in July 2014, she spoke of the job cuts at Queensland Rail since the former government's election in 2012.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They do not like it. They do not want to hear the truth.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Glass House.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The then CEO conceded that 'since March 2012, there has been a reduction of 19.6 per cent FTEs'.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera, you are warned under standing order 253A for your interjections. You will have ample opportunity to speak or ask questions this morning. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I expect—and the travelling public expect—the members for Clayfield and Indooroopilly to cooperate fully and for that cooperation to extend to the actions of their government on the following: train crew recruitment; recruitment freeze; the design and fitout of the next generation rolling stock, including planned operating models for drivers and guards; and the franchise of Queensland Rail, including consultants' reports and preparatory work done by or for the government, Queensland Rail or Treasury.