



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 November 2016

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Rail Services**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.15 pm): Given that I am following the member for Ferny Grove who made a contribution about the First Home Owners' Grant, I want to put on record that that initiative was actually an LNP first budget initiative when in government and it just so happens that the Labor government has continued that program.

**Mr Pitt** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! Treasurer, the member for Nanango has the call.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. He is a bit touchy about this subject. I also want to acknowledge and thank all of my constituents who are out the front of the parliament on Speakers' Corner loudly requesting that this government listen to their pleas in relation to their jobs. In particular, it was fantastic to see Woody and George Tonscheck stand up there as local farmers talking about their local region and their jobs, both on their farms and in relation to where they work.

Today we are talking about another fail from this Palaszczuk Labor government, and of course we are talking about a rail fail. This should come as no surprise given that it has been widely reported in the past that Anastacia Palaszczuk was named Australia's worst transport minister when she served in the Bligh government for a litany of failures including 15 per cent transport fare increases year on year and an 86 per cent rail on time running—a three-year low—between January and March 2012. How can we forget that the now Premier when transport minister forget to order seats for the *Sunlander 14*? Now under her premiership we see the member for Sandgate reclaim and take over the title of Australia's worst transport minister.

However, there is one person in this chamber whom the Premier has saved from claiming that title, and that of course would be the member for South Brisbane. In that quiet ministerial reshuffle just before Christmas, we saw the member for South Brisbane lose that job in the Transport portfolio. Despite being the transport minister for just under 12 months, the member for South Brisbane has an impressive list of transport project fails. We have seen no credible plan to construct Cross River Rail—Labor's No. 1 infrastructure project—after 20 months in government, despite Anastacia Palaszczuk describing the project as shovel-ready in 2013. In fact, the project has actually gone backwards and now the Prime Minister has had to provide more money to this government for planning. Under her watch we also saw a grossly overstated benefit cost ratio because they did not account for the benefits of the European Train Control System. Imagine the shock when questioning from the media prompted Labor to have to redo the cost benefit analysis and the benefit cost ratio fell from 1.27 to 1.06. This, of

course, is a massive reduction in benefits. We also saw the government hiding the cost of new trains and other project costs from the Cross River Rail affordability analysis—just a \$9 billion oversight! We have also seen a cost blowout from this Cross River Rail project from the touted \$5.4 billion to something around \$15 billion.

Today, we learn from the damning report into Queensland Rail's train service delivery that a train driver shortage was around under the watch of the member for South Brisbane. She has well and truly thrown the member for Sandgate under the train. The damning report shows, under her watch, 114 vacant positions for train crew. It is no wonder we are short of train drivers now. The member for South Brisbane was transport minister when they were not hiring.

There was money for wages. There were positions on paper, but empty seats in the train driver school and empty seats in the guard school. For the first time in history, Labor could not even hire public servants. This mess was all created originally by the member for South Brisbane. She has now transferred it to the most incompetent transport minister in Australia's living history.