




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Queensland Rail

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (10.04 am): As highlighted by the Premier earlier, as part of the Palaszczuk government's Accelerated Works Program last Thursday the Treasurer and I issued a direction under the Queensland Rail Transit Authority Act 2013 to require Queensland Rail to establish a dual early contractor involvement process and enter into negotiations with Downer's Maryborough maintenance centre and UGL's maintenance facility in Townsville in relation to potential rolling stock maintenance and overhaul works.

Early contractor involvement, which is an established market engagement strategy, delivers competitive services and the value for money offered by longer term contracts. Queensland Rail has \$400 million in planned maintenance and overhaul projects needed for its rolling stock until 2024, and the Palaszczuk government has acted to ensure that this will provide a steady stream of local work for regional Queenslanders. In doing this, Queensland Rail will secure contractors who we know have an established track record in this field and will also ensure these suppliers, who are important employers in regional Queensland, have a pipeline of work available to them to provide them with certainty for the future. Our focus is on jobs for Queenslanders, especially in regional Queensland, and accelerating Queensland Rail's package of rolling stock maintenance and overhaul works will assist by guaranteeing work for Queensland's railway industry until 2024, supporting jobs, critical skills and regional economies. The government believes in retaining a core rail and manufacturing skills base right here in Queensland.

This announcement is a vote of confidence in the future of Queensland's railway industry and reflects our government's determination to ensure that it can flourish as an important part of our state's economy. It also reflects our decision to retain a rail engineering and manufacturing skills base here in Queensland. Downer in particular has a proud history of working on Queensland railways, and this partnership will ensure that they continue to contribute to the delivery of our investment in rail infrastructure. This follows on from the recent \$5.6 million two-year contract that was awarded to Downer in April to upgrade and maintain the wheels on most of the Queensland Rail train fleet. This \$400 million injection will help secure regional rail jobs over the coming years to support the overhaul and modifications of Queensland's L series carriages, diesel tilt trains, train units, locomotives and wheel sets.

As someone from an extended family of Queensland Rail workers, I can say that Queensland has a proud railway history. The Palaszczuk government is doing everything it can to ensure that jobs associated with the running and maintenance of our rail infrastructure and assets remain in Queensland, particularly regional Queensland.