




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Rail

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (10.00 am): The Palaszczuk government believes in the dignity of work and the value jobs have in the lives of Queenslanders. My colleagues and I are focused on increasing job opportunities for Queenslanders right across the state. I understand the importance of ensuring that people stay in work and are supported in work through opportunities to grow and develop. The most valuable asset to any organisation is its people, and this is clearly evident at Queensland Rail. Queensland Rail is an exemplary organisation which supports and provides opportunities to its employees throughout their career.

On 11 April, the Minister for Training and Skills, the member for Redcliffe, and I unveiled the QR Rail Training Centre of Excellence, based within TAFE Queensland SkillsTech's Acacia Ridge campus, in the member for Sunnybank's electorate. It was good to be joined by him on that occasion as well. As well as providing support to QR staff, this facility will provide TAFE students with hands-on access to industry-specific training, including rail transmission, and distribution, transport and logistics. One way QR achieves other work training opportunities is through the Queensland Rail Young Professionals Network, which is open to any Queensland Rail employee aged 35 and under. This network provides a way for Queensland Rail's young employees to connect, own their career development, actively develop their skills and make a difference to other young professionals within and outside of the business.

On Friday I have the privilege of addressing the fifth annual Queensland Rail Young Professionals conference. This group of talented and driven young people will be crucial in addressing the challenges ahead, identifying and fostering opportunity and making our public transport network the very best it can be. As a leader in passenger transport, Queensland Rail provides an opportunity to operate in an innovative workplace utilising the latest technology. In 2015-16, Queensland Rail recruited 28 full-time apprentices, trainees and graduates to provide an opportunity for their more experienced employees to mentor and share their tremendous technical skills and rail knowledge with the next generation. We are not only investing in next generation rail; we are also investing in the next generation of rail employees.

I thank the hardworking staff of Queensland Rail for their loyalty, diligence and passion for the job. Due to the strong work culture within Queensland Rail, many employees stay for years, if not decades, which ultimately has a flow-on effect and supports the strong customer focus of the organisation. I thank all of those dedicated Queensland Rail employees.