




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 1 November 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Rail

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (4.48 pm): I can provide an update on my ministerial statement concerning train services made at 2.30 this afternoon.

The acting CEO has informed me that services have been cancelled this evening due to unforeseen driver shortages. In a statement the acting CEO has said that approximately 20 service alterations would be required this afternoon due to a train crew shortage. The acting CEO advised that Queensland Rail has fallen short of four driver positions and three guards. I again thank the hardworking train crews of Queensland Rail for their commitment to making the best of our current challenges.

This morning I requested Queensland Rail to provide me with the piece of advice received in March 2016 concerning the risks of train crew shortages. This is the March advice I referred to in my ministerial statement this morning. These documents are referred to as the 'GIRO reports'. This afternoon I was provided with the March report and a further report dated 21 October of this year. This was the first time I had been provided with these reports and the first time I had been made aware of the existence of the October report.

In both letters from GIRO it is again painfully clear that Queensland Rail personnel were aware of the risks of train crew shortages associated with the new timetable. The March and October reports state, 'QR's current driver and guard resource levels are not sufficient.' Further, I have asked the acting CEO of Queensland Rail to rapidly provide all documents associated with this issue to me so that I can provide them to the House.

Overnight and this morning I requested all relevant internal and external documents held by Queensland Rail relating to this matter. Until this time I had been entirely focused on overseeing Queensland Rail delivering a workable timetable for commuters while the Premier's investigation examined the issue. In light of the discovery of a January report beyond the March GIRO report I determined it was required to seek all QR documents, separate to the work of the investigation. This need to now proactively and painstakingly extract information from an agency is a highly unusual position for a minister to be in and speaks to the failure of management that I have already expressed frustration in this morning. Whilst these matters will be covered by the investigation announced by the Premier, I am committed to providing maximum transparency on this issue and, as such, am making all relevant documents available to the parliament. I again call upon the Leader of the Opposition and shadow Treasurer to do the same. I will be meeting with the acting CEO and acting chair of Queensland

Rail at 5 pm today to discuss these matters and other matters that I have already foreshadowed in the House. I table the documents.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 17 March 2016, from the Project Director, GIRO, Mr Francois Fortin, to the Project Manager, Queensland Rail, Mr Paul Mitchell and the Senior Manager TSD Queensland Rail, Mr Mick Skinner, regarding a statement of work for the final iteration for MBRL job cars optimisation for Queensland Rail [\[1953\]](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 21 October 2016, from the Project Director, GIRO, Mr Francois Fortin, to the Project Manager, Queensland Rail, Mr Marcus Sanker and Senior Manager TSD, Queensland Rail, Mr Mick Skinner, regarding a statement of work for MBRL job cards optimisation for Queensland Rail [\[1952\]](#).

Further, I can advise the House that this afternoon I was advised by Queensland Rail that former chief executive officer Helen Gluer provided three months notice when she resigned to the board, as required by the terms of her employment contract. Queensland Rail then made a payment in lieu of that three months notice totalling \$158,214. Queensland Rail advises me that the three-month-notice requirement is consistent with the policy for government owned corporation chief and senior executive employment arrangements. Ms Gluer was also paid her accrued leave entitlements as I am advised is required by law. This decision was made by Queensland Rail alone and not referred to the shareholding ministers for input or notice. Mr Klug's resignation was effective immediately. In line with formal governance arrangements for members of the Queensland Rail board, Mr Klug received no payout upon his resignation.

Mr CRIPPS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In view of the immediate nature of the interruption to services this afternoon, I wonder if the minister would oblige the House by tabling the notes he has used to make his ministerial statement.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I have no objection to tabling the documents.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Min Statement Number Three' [\[1954\]](#).