



Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 8 November 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Queensland Rail, Timetable

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (10.07 am): I can cautiously report that the new 2016 timetable for Queensland Rail is delivering for the public. This morning QR achieved an on-time running result of 88.36 per cent. These delays were due to a track fault at Yeerongpilly that affected the airport, Gold Coast, Beenleigh and Ferny Grove lines. These faults are a fairly routine issue that can occur across a heavy rail network the size and scope of Citytrain. I have not been advised of any service issues due to crew shortages this week.

I have spoken to the acting CEO of Queensland Rail multiple times this morning, and he advised that repairs to these impacted units are being progressed. Yesterday morning they achieved 98 per cent on-time running during the morning peak. Disappointingly, the p.m. peak on-time running was just above 80 per cent, largely impacted by a signal points failure on the Merivale Bridge and a boom gate strike at Cannon Hill. Those familiar with our train network would understand that an operational issue at the Merivale Bridge has significant flow-on impacts across our train network, as it is a bottleneck across the river. This further underlines the desperate need for the Cross River Rail project. I know how hard the Deputy Premier is working to deliver that project, with more funding already on the table from this government than from any other government in the project's history.

We are not out of the woods yet, but the acting CEO, Neil Scales, and the interim chair, Nicole Hollows, have developed this stable timetable for government. There is a long and ongoing body of work to do to build up our train crew numbers so that we can deliver the most services possible. We have started this task, opening recruitment for more than 200 more drivers and 200 more guards since coming to office. We have received high volumes of applications—over 300 for drivers and over 380 for guards—and are currently processing them. We are reaching out to former and retired drivers. We are investing in our network. We are getting things back on track. This new stable timetable from QR is frankly what should have been in place since the commencement of the Redcliffe peninsula line last month. That did not happen and I apologise for the impact on our travelling public that this has caused. I am focused on the task the Premier has given me to improve the service numbers in Queensland Rail and I am determined that we can deliver.