




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 9 November 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Queensland Rail

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (2.25 pm): On a number of occasions I have said that I would provide the House with updates relating to the issues at Queensland Rail, which include correcting erroneous reports. I can confirm for the House that the process of recruitment of drivers and guards has been followed in line with the established practice of many years. The 2013 enterprise agreement signed off by the former government required QR to seek applications from existing employees in the first instance. The same practice exists in the in-principle 2016 agreement and was followed in the recruitment drives of last year and this year.

On 25 October, I announced that the recruitment of an additional 100 drivers and 100 guards would occur. Consistent with the practice and consistent with the 2013 and 2016 enterprise agreements, those applications were opened for internal applicants. I can advise that, at the close of applications, 394 applications were received for the 100 driver positions and a further 505 applications were received for the 100 guard positions. It is important to explain this process because, despite signing off on the internal first recruitment process, the former government never conducted a mass driver recruitment process.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the minister, who was shouting out, 'You don't understand it'? Was that in the chamber or the gallery? I call the minister.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Prior to 2015, the last major recruitment drive occurred in 2011 when the Premier was the transport minister. The 899 applications for the 200 driver and guard positions are currently being assessed and applicants will be required to undergo psychometric, physical and other tests. I have said repeatedly that the government is exploring with Queensland Rail a means of fast-tracking and boosting the driver training process. That work is ongoing. QR has already complied with all required steps to source drivers from internal applicants. We have received a strong number of applicants and, following consideration of those applications, QR will determine if external recruitment is required. Those are practices that have been in place for many years, including under the 2013 agreement.