



Speech By  
**Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.28 am): What a week it has been for Australia's worst transport minister. Should we call him the minister for red herrings or should we call him the minister for not knowing? First he said that new generation rolling stock had so-called design issues that meant they were not ready. That excuse did not last terribly long. It came off the rails on ABC radio yesterday, when the minister's new acting CEO, Neil Scales, said that last year he had, in fact, sorted out any design issues. When Steve Austin asked, 'Were you aware of any issues?', he said—

Oh yeah. I fixed them ... as far as the new generation rollingstock trains are concerned, all the issues in the cab have been ironed out.

Excuse No. 1 was shot down.

If it was not enough to have his own spin exposed by his acting CEO on live radio, after just one phone call to Queensland Rail we can advise the House that the minister's constant grandstanding about driver training is wrong. This week we have heard the Premier and her train-wreck minister again make the claim that the LNP dismissed 66 members of the driver training unit and had somehow contributed to the problems that this Labor government has had almost two years to fix. Information provided to us after just one phone call clearly shows that not one tutor driver was dismissed by QR under the previous LNP government—not a one. Just 10 of these trainers left between 2012 and 2014, and all of them voluntarily.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Whilst we pause for a moment, I am informed that we have students from Redeemer Lutheran College, in the electorate of Callide, observing our proceedings. Welcome.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** They left—one via age retirement, four via resignation and five through the standing voluntary separation arrangements of Queensland Rail. The tutor drivers were not—I repeat, not—dismissed by the previous government as the union, the minister and the Premier have claimed. We also know from last February's damning Indec report that there was no shortage of tutor drivers at Queensland Rail but a shortage of trainees. Within QR the pool of 31 tutor drivers is more than twice the pool of 12 trainee drivers, the report reveals. This is a government that makes up the facts to suit itself.

*(Time expired)*