



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2017

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Queensland Rail**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.34 am): Traditionally, winter is the season of discontent, but for South-East Queensland commuters summer has been not only the season of discontent but also the season of disaster and debacle. Through the sheer incompetence of this Palaszczuk Labor government, in which ministers are not across their portfolios and do not ask the right questions, South-East Queensland commuters have suffered. What have they suffered? They have suffered late trains, they have suffered lost trains and they have suffered no trains at all. What started as 167 cancellations on 21 October led to an interim timetable on 24 October, mass Queensland Rail resignations on 27 October, a further 74 cancellations on Sunday, 30 October and another new timetable with 400 less services a week issued on 31 October. It all went quiet and one might have thought that that was the end of the rail fail, but roll on Christmas Day when one-third of all services—that is, 261 services—were cancelled with no notification to commuters. We then had a return to a timetable that saw some 472 less services a week. Let me remind commuters that that is 24,000 services less than they were promised in this coming year.

We have had the Strachan inquiry, a ministerial resignation and a back-to-the-future ministerial appointment. At the end of that, what is in it for commuters? At least two more years of rail fail pain. Queenslanders shudder with horror at the phrase 'Rudd, Gillard, Rudd'. We have our own version now: 'Trad, Hinchliffe, Trad'. Two ministers—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you members.

**Mr POWELL:** Those two ministers have overseen the state's worst public transport debacle and the only one smiling is the Premier, given that the previous worst record was her own when she was the transport minister. If we also throw into the mix the Treasurer bypassing Queensland Rail's board and making decisions with the unions, it just leads to frustration for commuters, which will continue well into the future. We already have the Deputy Premier letting the unions overrule Strachan inquiry recommendations. The most obvious solution to this debacle is to open up recruitment, but Queensland Rail remains a closed shop. The weekend's advertisement requiring Queensland Rail experience is in complete contradiction to the Strachan report. Commuters will be horrified this rail fail fix is going nowhere and the Palaszczuk Labor government is to blame.