



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Queensland Rail**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.29 am): Labor's Queensland Rail closed shop, which led to commuter chaos, is back. In truth, it probably never left. We know that Labor has already broken a key Strachan recommendation to bring in full external recruitment. By the government's own admission, that will not happen until late 2018. Now the Deputy Premier is claiming that she has only just found out that Queensland Rail will not even let all former Queensland Rail drivers apply for those jobs, just the ones that the union has picked out. Just the hand-picked union reps are the only ones who are allowed to apply, because the ones who left Queensland Rail when those opposite flogged off QR National in a fire sale are banned from applying. Are we being asked to believe that the Deputy Premier only just found this out? Rail advocates have been saying it for weeks. It is starting to sound increasingly ominous.

If you thought it could not get any worse than the minister who found out about train cancellations by tweets, this minister gives the member for Sandgate a run for his money! We now have ministerial memos by media. The Deputy Premier had to be told about flaws in her own plan to fix QR by the media. The Deputy Premier might put herself on a pedestal above her mediocre colleagues, but she is still just a know-nothing minister in a do-nothing government. This is the minister who was warned by a whistleblower back in October 2015 about the impending rail fail crisis.

**Mr Walker:** What did she do?

**Mr POWELL:** I take that interjection from the member for Mansfield. What did she do? Nothing. A big NFA was the direction given from her office—no further action. The minister then wrapped that ticking time bomb up and handed it over to the member for Sandgate: 'Here's one that I prepared earlier.' When it blew to bits in the face of the member for Sandgate, the Deputy Premier swept back in, saying, 'Only I can wrangle the unions. I can wrangle my union mates into line,' she told the Premier to get back as the transport minister. It does not matter who from the Labor Party is the transport minister; the RTBU bosses are really in charge of the Queensland Rail closed shop. The member for South Brisbane might consider herself the alternative Premier, but if she thinks she can run a train service she is in an alternate reality.