




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Queensland Rail

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.23 am): Labor's rail fail has evolved. In the words of the member for Maryborough, it is now a rail debacle. Over the past 24 hours, one of the world's largest rail operators, Deutsche Bahn, has panned Labor's 'rail fail' in a whole-of-business review of Queensland Rail. Deutsche Bahn—or DB—is a company with 5.5 million passenger transport customers each and every day. It operates more than 40,000 services daily on its 33,000-kilometre-long rail network, which includes over 5,500 railway stations. Unlike that mob opposite us, one could say that DB knows a thing or two about running trains.

The Strachan inquiry requested this report. Over six weeks an expert rail team from DB reviewed all of QR, interviewing 82 managers from QR and TMR, including the CEO and the director-general, embarking on four operational QR site visits and reviewing 250 documents. With 30 findings and recommendations, reviews do not come more thorough than this one. What did DB find? I ask members to remember that last week the Premier said that she had been fully briefed and was very optimistic. DB says that 18 new generation rolling stock trains are required to service the Commonwealth Games timetable—a timetable that commuters still have not seen. That is another secret from a secretive government. Given that nobody else on that side seems competent enough to do it, perhaps the member for Maryborough could do the people of South-East Queensland a favour and release that Commonwealth Games timetable. DB says that 18 NGR trains are required for the Commonwealth Games but, in its conservative view, those 18 NGR trains will not be ready. So much for optimism! As we learned at estimates, there are only 15 NGR trains in the state and only five of them have done on-track testing. So much for optimism! DB warns that there is a risk—

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I hear the interjections of the Minister for Education. I urge you to consider your interjections in the future.

Mr Cripps: You'll have the chook run.

Mr SPEAKER: Yes, you too might be down to the chook run.

Mr POWELL: Deutsche Bahn warned that there is a risk that there will not be enough train crew either. The Deputy Premier's last-ditch, eleventh-hour opening of train crew recruitment will not save the games. So much for optimism! DB also warned that there is a risk of increased rolling stock failures as a result of having to rely on ageing trains—trains that have contributed to 84 per cent of the major rail fails over the past 12 months. So much for optimism! At the same time, DB tells us that Queensland Rail's NGR and Commonwealth Games teams are understaffed. So much for optimism!

Today the Premier is breathing a sigh of relief, because today is the day that she loses the mantle of Queensland's—

(Time expired)