




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2017

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Queensland Rail

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.16 am): This morning I call on all members of this House to acknowledge a not so happy anniversary—one year of South-East Queensland commuters suffering Labor's rail fail. It has been a year of delay, a year of disruption, a year of debacle, a year of disaster—and commuters are still suffering with fewer services, overcrowded trains or trains which do not even show up. Even today we have had a network-wide delay across all lines as reported by TransLink. How many people were late to work or late to school this morning because of the failures of those opposite? Commuters are beyond fed up. You only have to look at social media so see their frustration. One commuter this morning said, 'This is ridiculous! Four out of five days this week my morning train is running late.' This is happening every week.

It has been going on for a year. One year ago, on that fateful Friday, 21 October, more than 100 services were cancelled and passengers were given no warning and no explanation. The then minister—Minister Hinchliffe—went into hiding. Commuters deserved more. A week later the CEO and the chair of Queensland Rail had to resign. On Christmas Day we had a rail meltdown, with over 200 services cancelled, while Queenslanders were trying to get to family lunches with bags full of presents.

The truth started to come out. Labor had spent two years twiddling their thumbs and had forgotten to recruit new drivers for the new Redcliffe line, and the RTBU demands to recruit only internally were limiting the pool of drivers and guards. This is a government run by unions for unions, and the South-East Queensland commuter is the one who is suffering.

At the start of this year the member for Sandgate finally fell on his sword. Who did the Premier replace him with? The Deputy Premier, the architect of this disaster in the first place. Labor's final solution was to release a new timetable after several interim ones—a solution that saw 472 services a week cut from the timetable. Over a year that is a reduction of 24,000 trains which should have run and thousands of trains which should have been turning up to pick up commuters. No wonder they are leaving rail in their droves. They are jumping back in their cars, clogging up our major highways and Brisbane streets.

It was those opposite under Anna Bligh's Labor government who gave us trains without seats. Now we have Annastacia Palaszczuk giving Queenslanders the rail line without drivers and the soon to come Commonwealth Games without trains.