




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

Record of Proceedings, 1 March 2017

MOTION

Queensland Rail, Timetable; Order for Production of Documents

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (6.16 pm): There is no reason why Queensland Rail should not have the best rail network in Australia; that is why the Palaszczuk government is committed to implementing all 36 recommendations of the Strachan inquiry report. I could not agree with the Premier more: the Deputy Premier is as tough as steel, and I cannot think of anyone better to implement the recommendations of the Strachan report and get Queensland Rail back on track.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Coomera, you have made your contribution. I do not know if there was argy-bargy between you and the member for Maryborough. Member for Maryborough, I call you for your contribution.

Mr SAUNDERS: This includes assessing the current timetable to ensure that the provision of rail services in the state is reliable and stable. It is not just the timetable that they are talking about over on the other side of the House but the reliability of the services. Queensland Rail has a long and proud history across our state of running services as well as manufacturing trains and carrying out maintenance work. This work is absolutely critical to ensuring that Queensland Rail is able to provide reliable, stable passenger rail services, but you cannot run a reliable train timetable without reliable trains. I can tell you how good the trains were that we made in Maryborough, Queensland. The tilt train did 5 million kilometres—

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Nanango, you are under first warning. Those interjections have no relevance whatsoever to the member's contribution. I call the member for Maryborough.

Mr SAUNDERS: We are still using suburban trains in Brisbane that were built in Maryborough 25 years ago such is the quality of that work, and that is why the train system has been great. That mob across there sold us out, because the new trains are coming from India. Wasn't it ironic that the member for Coomera talked about the *Bombay Express*, when we have the *Shanghai Express* and the *Delhi Express* all coming thanks to the LNP. I would like to table this. This is a great article; I could not stop reading it this morning. It says, 'New train for half price'. This sounds like a Silly Solly's ad. Can you believe this?

Mr SPEAKER: Would you like to table it, please. It is not a prop.

Mr SAUNDERS: Can you believe this? It says, 'New train for half price'—

Mr SPEAKER: There is a staffer there, member for Maryborough.

Mr SAUNDERS: I table that, Mr Speaker.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 29 January 2014, by the Treasurer and Minister for Trade, Hon. Time Nicholls, and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Scott Emerson, titled 'New trains for half the price' [\[319\]](#).

As the Deputy Premier said earlier today, you only get what you pay for. The LNP bought the trains from the New Delhi \$2 shop. Not only did they get cheap trains; they also brought a great city to its knees. That decision has now affected train services in Brisbane. Not only did they bring a great city to its knees by getting \$2 trains from Chennai and New Delhi; they also did not get drivers. They were not content with cutting the jobs of public servants in hospitals and so on. They also cut train drivers. Now they say that it is all our fault. No, it is not.

I can speak from experience. I was a fireman on the railway so I know what I am talking about. How many members opposite have been on a train? I doubt that half of them have even used public transport in Brisbane. They travel in chauffeur driven cars to work every day. It is only the working people who catch the train to work every day.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I am having difficulty hearing the member. If I cannot hear then Hansard will not be able to, either.

Mr SAUNDERS: Let us talk about great trains. Members can imagine the trains being built in Maryborough operating on the suburban rail network. At the moment trains are being brought in from India—16-tonne light. I would like LNP members to explain to my 220 workers at the great manufacturing plant of Downer why the contract went to India. Then they should tell Brisbane commuters what is happening. Those opposite cut drivers and decreased the quality of the trains.

I am a regional member of parliament but when I am in Brisbane I use the rail network. I often take a trip out to Sandgate, which is represented by a great member of parliament. When I am on the train to Sandgate I note that the trains are made in Maryborough, not a 'Bombay Express' given to us by those opposite—the cut-price \$2 trains.

LNP members and the One Nation leader tell us that they are for Queenslanders. The member for Buderim was in cabinet when the train contract was taken away from Maryborough. Those opposite tell us that they are for Australians and Queenslanders, yet the member for Buderim sat in cabinet and voted for the \$2 trains.

(Time expired)