




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 1 March 2017

MOTION

Queensland Rail, Timetable; Order for Production of Documents

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (6.22 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the motion moved by the shadow minister and against the amendment moved by the Deputy Premier. My electorate relies on trains. It is home to the Grovely, Oxford Park and Mitchelton stations—it will soon be home to the Gaythorne and Enoggera stations—on the Ferny Grove line, and those at the northern end of my electorate also use the Strathpine line. People rely on trains and they expect them to run on time. This debacle can be described in no better way than the way the member for Nanango described it: this is the stuff-up of all stuff-ups. The only thing less reliable than the trains at the moment is Labor Party members sticking with the electorates they were elected to represent!

A new timetable was released with great fanfare when the Redcliffe peninsula line was opened in October last year. Very soon after that, because of the government's lack of foresight and lack of planning, we had the interim timetable. Not long after that we had the revised interim timetable. Then not long after that we went back to the interim timetable. Now we have the hopeful timetable. That is all we have at the moment—hoping that a train will arrive on time.

It is no surprise that the Deputy Premier has done what she does best—that is, blame somebody else. Nobody in government has taken responsibility for the stuff-up of all stuff-ups. They blame the opposition first, despite the fact that we have not been in government for two years. They still try to work out some way to sheet the blame home to us. When they cannot do that, they blame the bureaucrats: 'Let's blame some poor innocent bureaucrat behind the scenes.' Ministers have all claimed they had nothing to do with this, that they are hands-off, that QR is a statutory authority. They take no responsibility when things go wrong, but when things go well they take the credit. The Christmas Day debacle was apparently not their fault, but when things apparently went right on New Year's Day they credited the minister for it. Those opposite have to make up their minds about whether they are or are not responsible. The only person they have not blamed is Donald Trump, and that will happen shortly I am very sure.

If this issue were not so serious it would be funny. On Christmas Day, the most special family day of the year, people were stranded at railway stations with no idea what was happening—no communication, no idea whatsoever. It has not been fixed. The Deputy Premier gets up and says, 'We are working hard.' Guess what: it still ain't working. Just this week I saw a Facebook post about Burpengary station. It states—

My 6.31 train is cancelled 5 minutes after the time it was supposed to get here—for the second Monday in a row.

On Monday this week the daily peak on-time running, which the member for Crandon quoted—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MANDER: You deserve a seat! One day you will get a seat named after you, member for Coomera. On the Ferny Grove line, the on-time running in the morning peak was 76.47 per cent. That means that one in four trains is not arriving on time. People are totally and utterly sick of it.

What about the overtime bill? What about the amount of money that has been wasted on overtime? It is running to hundreds of thousands of dollars. What deal did the government do with the unions to do away with the 20-minute break after every two hours? Anecdotally, I have heard that they got overtime on demand. When you wanted overtime you rang up and got the overtime, whether overtime was justified or not. We had people sitting in train stations all day doing nothing. People were granted overtime despite the fact that overtime was not justified.

Today the Deputy Premier moved an amendment and tabled a particular document, which shows no report-back date. Today she got from Phillip Strachan an explanation of when it will be ready. It is dated 1 March 2017. She got her letter from the principal giving her permission to foot the delay.