



Speech By  
**Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Queensland Rail**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.26 am): What a week we have seen with a rail-fail government that has conjured train debacle after debacle while weaving excuse after excuse, and this week was no exception.

**Ms Trad** interjected.

**Mr Langbroek** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I apologise, Leader of the Opposition. Member for Surfers Paradise and Deputy Premier, you can take your sparring outside. The Leader of the Opposition has the call.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I do not need your help either, Minister for Industrial Relations. Leader of the Opposition, would you like to start again, please?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** What a week, and we have just seen more of it play out across the chamber in the past 30 seconds. This is a rail-fail government that has conjured train debacle after debacle while weaving excuse after excuse, and Tuesday of this week was no exception. In fact, as Queensland's worst rail-fail crisis approaches its first anniversary, we find a crisis that is getting worse and not any better. That is because this government is so bereft of solutions that it believes it can con Queenslanders by refusing to take responsibility for anything.

On Tuesday, across the rail network from about 4.58 onwards we saw widespread delays lasting the best part of an hour. Amid the chaos caused by this government, tempers flared again; confusion reigned again; and passengers scrambled for buses, taxis and ride-share vehicles again. What did the erstwhile transport minister do by way of fronting up to yet another unfolding rail fail? She passed off responsibility again. What did she say? She said, 'I'll talk to my agency', as only a freelancing Minister for Transport could! There are three words for this bad Labor government: cons, costs and crises. Three are another three words for a transport minister who will not shoulder the responsibility to put an end to the rail fail: not good enough.

It is not good enough from the Minister for Corrective Services. We have a Minister for Corrective Services who is so averse to taking responsibility for his repeated bumbles—despite the heavy human cost in each of them—that sorry seems to be the hardest word. On Tuesday in this place, when called to respond to his appalling handling of a parole case which left a Gold Coast domestic violence victim frightened for her life, the minister was mealy-mouthed and dismissive. He effectively blamed the victim, wiping his hands of responsibility to help keep survivors of domestic violence in Queensland safe, protected and alive. The minister's unmistakable inference was that this terrified woman should, of her

own accord, have discovered and placed herself on the Victims Register if she wished to know whether her violent ex-partner had been handed a free pass. This is despite the fact that the website was not up and running.

It is time to end the cons, costs and crises. I say to the Premier: just name the election date so we can see real leadership back in Queensland.

*(Time expired)*