




Speech By
Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 17 October 2018

**MOTION: QUEENSLAND RAIL; NO CONFIDENCE IN THE MINISTER FOR
TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS**

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (5.54 pm): I am glad that the *Orient Express* was not an NGR train, because they would not be going anywhere. I rise to speak against this fraudulent motion. Having listened to some of the comments from those opposite, I think it is about time that some of them were shunted. This motion ignores the truth, and it ignores both the LNP's failings and the Palaszczuk government's significant achievements in this space.

Everyone in this House should be proud of the incredible success of the Commonwealth Games and the highly positive impression that they created of the Gold Coast and Queensland right around the world. One of the most impressive aspects of that success was the smooth operation of transport. Let us not downplay the size of the challenge presented to the minister: one million spectators, 6,600 athletes and 17 venues spread throughout the Gold Coast. It was a world-class event and the transport, planning and execution were world class to match.

During the games, more than 5.3 million public transport trips were made, representing more than 75 per cent of trips made on the entire South-East Queensland transport network at that time. On the coast, buses ran for 24 hours, seven days a week delivering 4,000 extra daily services. Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2, developed and delivered by the Palaszczuk government in record time, carried close to 100,000 passengers per day during the games. Queensland Rail estimated total passenger trips on the Gold Coast line to be more than 600,000 people.

We were ready for the games and we delivered. We delivered it under this transport minister. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads rose to the challenge and the legacy of his stewardship deserves to be recognised—\$1 billion was invested in the Gold Coast transport network, which will support the city's growth and tourism into the future. That investment included the fast tracking of \$163 million for the duplication of the Gold Coast heavy rail line between Coomera and Helensvale, and more than \$160 million to upgrade local roads throughout the Gold Coast.

Those opposite hated the Commonwealth Games and they still talk about it today. They hated that it was a success and they look for every opportunity to criticise the Commonwealth Games. That criticism continues today with references in this motion to the cost of the overtime that was delivered to the workers. What an absolute joke. It makes me wonder if the LNP has any understanding of fairness for working-class people. Maybe they do not understand that, but for their benefit I will explain the concept of paying your workers appropriately for the contributions that they make and for the work that they do.

Like many industries that rely on shift workers, overtime is a standard part of working patterns for Queensland Rail train crews. Through Queensland Rail, the Palaszczuk government undertook significant planning to ensure that workers delivered a successful Commonwealth Games and that they were paid correctly for doing the work that they did. Critical frontline staff including train crews, train controllers, overhead linesmen, signal engineers and station operation staff went above and beyond to

deliver and boost rail services on the Gold Coast line. Queensland Rail worked closely with their employees to ensure their extra efforts and flexibility were recognised by being paid appropriately. On this side of the House, we think that is right and we will not apologise for paying those workers.

There is something else those opposite do not get, and that is Cross River Rail. In contrast, the Palaszczuk government understands that this transformative initiative offers genuine opportunity for the network to reform and revitalise. It will unlock the bottleneck at the core of the South-East Queensland transport network, allowing more trains to run more often and it will enable a significant increase in the South-East Queensland rail network capacity, providing a basis for future expansion on the network.

Cross River Rail will make it faster and easier to use public transport across the Gold Coast and is on track to be delivered by 2024. Cross River Rail will unlock the bottleneck in Brisbane CBD, enabling turn up and go frequency across the whole of South-East Queensland. The motion before the House does not bear close scrutiny and I will not be supporting it. Instead of bringing up rubbish motions like this, you should all come over and thank the minister for the great job he is doing in Queensland and in this government.