




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Record of Proceedings, 17 October 2018

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

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.44 pm): I join my colleagues in opposing this motion. The Palaszczuk government is committed to restoring services to commuters and fixing the cuts from the LNP in Queensland. It was this government that established the commission of inquiry in 2016 to investigate the train crew and timetabling issues on the Citytrain network. This inquiry report was developed through 102 interviews with key stakeholders and analysis of available data and documents. The recommendations made by the inquiry provided the plan for restoring Queensland Rail services, a body of work that the government continues to follow and implement.

The Citytrain Response Unit was established by the Palaszczuk government on 8 February 2017. The response unit is the body that will monitor the implementation of the 36 recommendations contained in the inquiry's final report. It also oversees reviews of the governance, legislative framework and the structure of passenger rail service delivery in Queensland. Jacqui Walters has been appointed as the chair of the Citytrain Response Unit and reports directly to the responsible ministers for Queensland Rail. As at 30 June 2018 the Citytrain Response Unit reported that of the 36 Strachan inquiry recommendations 18 are complete, three are partially complete and 15 are in progress. The progress made in stabilising rail operations in South-East Queensland has resulted in a sustainable timetable with stress periods proactively managed with minimal impact to customers.

While the LNP was touting Queensland Rail as the best in the country, it was sacking workers and ignoring training and investment in infrastructure. Our government was left to pick up the pieces. The recovery of the region's rail system must be gradual and it must be sustainable. Over the past 12 months some of the highlights of that recovery have included implementation of the eight-week train crew management plan supported by a refined model to enable better management of timetable stress; development of communication tools and processes to ensure passengers receive advance notice of timetable changes and are kept informed during service disruptions; first stress period without taking a timetabled service downgrade for the July 2018 school holidays; opening of train crew recruitment to external candidates with no prior Queensland Rail experience; and a reduction of driver training duration from 18 months to 13.1 months. We have seen a significant increase in reliability and for 12 months Queensland Rail has delivered more than 95 per cent of its services on time. We know there is a long way to go to restore customer confidence and return to a full service timetable but progress is being made.

The Palaszczuk government committed to delivering on the recommendations of the commission of inquiry and ensuring that customers have the contemporary and reliable public transport system that they deserve. I want to finish by saying that at a local level Mount Ommaney has benefited enormously from investment in transport infrastructure in the local area. The Mount Ommaney electorate is preparing for the future with critical upgrades to park-and-rides—for instance, Springfield in the electorate of Jordan—and in my electorate of Darra work is underway to build an additional 181 car

parks at the Darra park-and-ride. We know that we cannot fix roads in order to fix congestion; we have to upgrade public transport facilities as well. I am proud to say I fought hard to secure over \$8 million to upgrade the Darra park-and-ride in addition to the \$65 million for the much awaited Sumner Road upgrade which is so desperately needed.

Mrs Lauga: A great local member!

Ms PUGH: Thank you! It was also fantastic to secure a total of \$20 million for the business case and early resumptions for the Centenary Motorway project which is much needed in our community. As members can see, when it comes to the future of transport it is all happening in Mount Ommaney.

The Minister for Transport and I have been lobbying tirelessly for the expansion of Oxley Road from two lanes to four. We have not had much luck. We have been trying to work with our colleagues in the Brisbane City Council but so far we have had no success. Let us hope that the Brisbane City Council can see the benefit of upgrading this rail bridge. We just need them to sign on the dotted line. We have been working hard and I commend the minister for his cooperation at every step of the way for these critical local projects for the people of Mount Ommaney. All members of this House should get on board.