




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 17 October 2018

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

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.03 pm): What a screechy, desperate effort from the member for Chatsworth. Of course, he was Campbell Newman's assistant minister for public transport, but he does not like it when we remind him of that. His fingers are all over the events of October. This is the member who described the Newman government as having 'the best managed rail network in Australia'. They ordered trains that were built by overseas workers. They refused to begin training a single train driver for the entire year of 2014. They knew they had six new stations opening in 2016 and they knew we had the Commonwealth Games coming—the biggest sporting event in the country for a decade—yet they stopped training train drivers for an entire year in 2014. And he describes that as the best managed rail network in Australia? Oh, my God! Really?

This opposition has learned nothing from two election defeats. They suffered the most catastrophic loss of a large majority government in Australian political history. They lost and squandered the biggest majority in less than three years. They did not even get to three years. Why? They treated people arrogantly. They particularly mismanaged the rail network.

One of the key issues identified about why services in October 2016 had such substantial issues was because there were not enough drivers. Why were there not enough drivers? Because the LNP stopped training them. It took 18 months to train a train driver—we have that down to 13—and it flowed through to when the system expanded. That has been well documented. There has been no apology from the member for Chatsworth. There has been no apology from the opposition for substantially causing the rail fail. There have been no apologies from them. They are only trying to cover up their role and their culpability in damaging a rail system that is now taking years to recover.

Let us compare the two records. Under Labor how many train driver training schools are there? There are eight underway. How many were there under the LNP? Zero in 2014. Do we sack the workforce? No, we treat them with respect. The LNP attacked workers, they sacked workers and they despatched workers. They despatched 1,700 Queensland Rail workers. How dare they come in here and talk about respect for the workforce! Let us look at patronage. Under Labor we have patronage up by 2.3 million trips since the Newman years of 2014-15. Patronage went down 2.38 million under the LNP between 2011-12 and 2014-15. In the last financial year we have seen an increase in patronage of 3.8 per cent for the rail system. This shows there is confidence returning. People are returning and patronage is up because we are stabilising and improving the system.

Over the last two school holidays we have seen a full timetable retained for the first time since October 2016. We are seeing overtime coming down. We have seen patronage going up. We have seen on-time running at above 95 per cent for four quarters in a row. I do not know what sort of imagination the member for Chatsworth has, but we have one of the toughest on-time running criteria in the country. We have been above 95 per cent for the last four quarters in a row. The Commonwealth Games plan was delivered: 600,000 trips. I remember those opposite doomsaying that we would have

rail fail during the games. In fact, we had a transport plan that worked very well. Who presided over that? I did, as the minister. You have to do more than rhyme two words together and put them after a hashtag: you need a policy.

Under Labor we have a comprehensive plan based on the Strachan inquiry. Half of the recommendations have already been implemented. We are bringing in the smart ticketing that is used in Chicago, London and Vancouver so we can have a more efficient world-class system. There are no plans from the opposition. The opposition are more interested in segues than they are in railways. They sent train manufacturing overseas instead of keeping it in Queensland. Labor will have Queensland workers rectifying these trains because of the LNP's mess. Overtime is coming down under us, whereas it went up 25 per cent under them. This is a spurious motion and—

(Time expired)