




Speech By  
**Melissa McMahon**

**MEMBER FOR MACALISTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 October 2018

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

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (5.14 pm): I rise to oppose the motion. The hypocrisy of those opposite is instructive. I thank the House for the opportunity to correct the record by explaining how the Palaszczuk government is rebuilding Queensland Rail after it was decimated by Campbell Newman and his mates. Apart from the minister, you may not find a bigger fan of public transport in this House than me. I know that the much derided family-friendly hours have meant that I have been able to use public transport to travel from my house to this House.

Rather than dwell on the negatives that have defined the LNP's short but spectacularly poor attempt to govern this state, I would like to share the latest public transport figures with the House. The trend in patronage is actually very positive. Confidence in our South-East Queensland public transport system is returning, with more people catching public transport, taking millions of additional trips compared to the same time last year. TransLink data released just last week reveals that 3.1 million more trips were taken by South-East Queensland commuters between April and June 2018. From listening to those opposite, you would think that they were all empty and not there. Some 47.5 million public transport trips were taken during the most recent reported quarter. That is up from 44.4 million trips in the same quarter last year.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, there is too much general conversation. It does not even appear to be interjections. I ask you to keep your conversations to a minimum or take them outside.

**Mrs McMAHON:** For the full 2017-18 financial year, 182.83 million trips were taken in South-East Queensland. That is an increase of 5.4 million trips, or 3.1 per cent, on the 2016-17 patronage figures. What is more pleasing about the data is that it does not even include the 5.3 million event trips that occurred during the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

Let us compare that to the LNP's record. There are so many sorry milestones that we could focus on, but let us focus on patronage. I will restrict myself to just the rail services and public transport—the topics we are here to speak about. Between the 2011-12 and 2014-15 financial years, public transport trips actually dropped under the LNP by more than two million. Over the same period, trips on trains in South-East Queensland dropped by roughly the same number—2.38 million. The Campbell Newman effect was well and truly rolling—driving people to drive, because they were certainly turning away from public transport.

Since its first election the Palaszczuk government has turned the LNP negatives into everything that is positive for South-East Queensland commuters today. More people are riding trains, buses, ferries and trams. That passenger growth has gained momentum due to the introduction of the Fairer Fares policy in late 2016. By reducing the average adult fare by about 13½ per cent compared to January 2014 levels, Fairer Fares has encouraged more people to give public transport a go and saved families more than \$117 million. Fairer Fares has meant that each trip from the Beenleigh train station

in my electorate to the city had a saving of \$3.70. That is a saving of over \$800 each year for our commuters. Thank you, Fairer Fares.

Concessions and discounts for veterans, jobseekers and asylum seekers also ensure that public transport is accessible by those who rely on it most. Next month, to support the centenary of armistice services on 11 November, the Palaszczuk government will provide free public transport for uniformed serving Australian Defence Force personnel and veterans and their families wearing service medals. This is a free travel initiative that will apply each year on Remembrance Day, as it already does on Anzac Day. This is a fantastic initiative. It is one that I know my family and friends will be using. Free travel for veterans and their families is just another way the Palaszczuk Labor government is supporting people to catch public transport. I urge all those opposite to get on board and give it a go.