



Speech By  
**Steve Minnikin**


**MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2018

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Transport and Public Works Committee, Report**

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (3.20 pm): There was something nice said about me from the other side of the chamber, which is pretty rare. I want to say on the record that I am genuine in my praise of the member for Kurwongbah. From what I saw during the estimates process—obviously I attended my session and watched plenty of them on the CCTV monitoring system—the member for Kurwongbah provided a great example of the way chairing should be conducted during the estimates process. I thought he was actually quite measured. We have not exchanged any ale; I am being very genuine when I say that I thought he handled it quite well. His chairing of the committee was in marked contrast to the way the minister performed. I note that the gentleman who occupies the role is certainly very tall. I do not know whether he had a bit of altitude sickness due to a lack of oxygen, but when we go through *Hansard* the answers that he gave were typically rehearsed and formulaic. It was almost Benjamin Disraeli-like: ‘Lies, damned lies and statistics.’

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that the language of the member was extremely unparliamentary and I request that it be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): I ask that you withdraw.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** Yes, I withdraw. During this process the one thing that I love is the work that is done by *Hansard* in particular, because it makes for really interesting reading when you have the time to pour a java and go through it. I am going to pick the minister up on something that I intend to pursue after I have made my contribution here today. The simple fact is that when you come into politics, particularly state politics, you ask yourself, ‘What is it all about?’ When you strip it down, essentially it is all fundamentally about competent service delivery. In the eyes of some it may not be as riveting as what happens in other spheres of government, but you have to make sure that you are on top of your brief.

We have had a series of ministers in the last three years and roughly 10 months who have taken on the portfolio of public transport in particular. We saw the efforts of the member for Southport. We know exactly what happened with the good old member for Sandgate. Then it went back to the member for South Brisbane. Now under Minister Bailey’s watch we have seen 472 reduced services. I could count to 472; it would take me around 7½ minutes. It is mind-boggling that to this day someone would try and justify on any measured scorecard the 472 fewer services compared to when we were in government. I put it to the minister that, rather than carp on with meaningless interjections which I am not taking, what he would be well versed to do is spend some time listening to the good burghers on the Manly line that travels through the electorate of Lytton. It is an absolute and complete joke, but there is more to it than that.

When the question was put to one of the senior bureaucrats during the estimates process—which is the question from a public transport perspective that people want answered—'When is rail fail going to end?' there was absolute silence. The minister had the chance to get up, grab the microphone and answer the question, but he chose not to because he cannot. Why is that? We also discovered during estimates that—queue the scary music—come February with EB 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0 we are going to see drivers'—with their two 30-minute lunch breaks—'plate time' behind the caboose potentially drop from around 33 per cent to about 19 per cent.

I put it to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that if you are paid for an eight-hour day and you are not even working 20 per cent of the time during your core job, what are you doing? We have a situation where #railfail is going to become #railfail 2.0. You have to be pretty special in public office when you have your own hashtag after your portfolio. This minister needs to stop pontificating, as he will shortly get up and do, and get on with the job of delivering an effective and efficient public transport service. This minister's job has absolutely been a complete joke.

*(Time expired)*