



Speech By  
**Steve Minnikin**


**MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Public Transport**

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.18 pm): I would like to know what parallel universe the member for Miller, the transport and main roads minister, lives in. Earlier this morning in answer to a Dorothy Dixier asked by one of the backbenchers he wanted to spruik about how wonderful the public transport system is, particularly as it pertained to rail. Rail fail—you have to be pretty special if you are a minister and you have your own hashtag denoted to it—is still continuing.

I will give some facts. In terms of skipped stations, commuters were left stranded 277 times between July and September. In the first quarter of this financial year—July to September—on 277 occasions people have had trains simply go right by them. This is an increase from 232 over the same period last year. It does not really equate. We are told that everything is tickety-boo, yet it is actually going backwards.

The minister also asserted that things are now wonderful, with of all these new restored services. They are not new services; they are merely trying to replicate the disaster from a few years ago—trying to replicate the 472 services removed from the South-East Queensland passenger rail network. That is another fail. It just continues.

Then the minister made the absurd assertion in relation to New Generation Rollingstock that they were bought overseas because we were hopeless. There was a compelling reason: Downer EDI pulled out of the tender bid. They were not interested. There was no other option. That has been documented time and again. For this man, foolish behaviour knows no bounds. He was not called 'foolish' by the CCC for no reason; he is the walking embodiment of that term.

It gets better. Congestion in South-East Queensland is absolutely rampant. It does not matter whether one travels on Gympie Road or Old Cleveland Road—north, south, east or west. Congestion is out of control. Is it any wonder? We know that public transport is another fail, because it is not keeping up with per capita growth. The minister has selective vision—'lies, damned lies and statistics'. He likes to harp on about the fact that a recent report showed a total figure of 189 million passengers in 2018-19; however, that figure does not take account of the fact that during that same period it did not keep pace with per capita growth—another fail. Sadly, it continues.