




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 3 April 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Queensland Rail, Shorncliffe Line

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (7.27 pm): As a regular commuter I know that there is still more work to be done to return our Citytrain network to the service levels planned in October 2016. In particular, the restoration of the Monday to Thursday 7.39 am Shorncliffe-to-city service is something that I have raised with the Minister for Transport on multiple occasions as a service that should be treated with priority. This gap in the peak-hour service was felt strongly by local commuters.

Having supported community petitions, met with many constituents and organised meetings with the minister and Queensland Rail executives for them, our community have signalled loud and clear that they have had more than their fair share of gaps in peak-hour services. That is why I welcome the announcement by the minister that the 7.39 am Shorncliffe-to-city service will be reinstated Monday to Thursday, to fill the full week, as part of Queensland Rail's addition from Monday, 13 May of 32 extra weekly services at peak times across the South-East Queensland network. This announcement is welcome relief to the many commuters in my electorate, such as Sharon Westwood of Shorncliffe, who have spent many hours of their own time campaigning alongside me for the reinstatement of this popular peak-hour service.

Filling in these gaps, in addition to the rollout of the new six-car new generation rolling stock on the Shorncliffe line, demonstrates that the Palaszczuk government is committed to progressively improving the timetable and then delivering further timetable improvements later this year. This is a consequence of the largest driver recruitment and training campaign in Queensland Rail's history. Seventy-six drivers are in training, adding to the 136 drivers who have completed their qualifications and are working hard on the network, representing a net increase of 73 in service due to the impact of natural attrition such as retirement.

While the Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of delivering the services our community expects, I was disappointed to see no funding allocated in last night's Morrison LNP government's budget for vital, network-opening infrastructure projects like Cross River Rail. Such a project will mean more trains, more often on the Shorncliffe line. The Palaszczuk government supports communities in my electorate by investing in Cross River Rail. I am pleased that Bill Shorten and Labor's candidates in Lilley and Petrie, Anika Wells and Corinne Mulholland, are committed to supporting this city-changing project.

This is a great opportunity to see the public transport network in our city live up to its potential. With the work that has been happening to restore services and restore the capability of that network, I know that we will see a great service into the future with further additions like Cross River Rail.