




Speech By
Bisma Asif

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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ADJOURNMENT

Public Transport

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (9.12 pm): I would like to raise concerns on behalf of my community about the cuts to staffing hours proposed by this LNP government to the Queensland Rail network. Come May, this government will be slashing the hours of up to 700 Queensland Rail workers across our network. They are proposing to remove station staff from platforms after 1 pm on weekdays and, in some cases, entirely on weekends. They were hoping that no-one would notice, but people have and they are calling for action.

Local stations in my electorate of Sandgate and neighbouring stations on the northside that people rely on every day to get to work and to get home safely will be directly affected. This is what it will mean for our local northside community. At Deagon weekday staffing will be cut by six hours, finishing at 1 pm instead of 7 pm, and all weekend shifts will be removed entirely. At Shorncliffe, Bald Hills and Carseldine weekend staffing hours will be cut. Families rely on these stations that are being affected. Every single Queenslanders who uses our network—families, students and elderly commuters—will be impacted.

The government is using language like ‘rostering changes’ and ‘operational efficiencies’, but what it really means is wage cuts for working people in Queensland. Queensland Rail workers work hard every day to keep our community safe and to keep people who travel on our trains safe. The cuts will mean that students who are travelling home from school in the afternoon will be left unsupervised on platforms and have no-one to turn to when things go wrong. The staff work hard to prevent dangerous behaviours around the tracks and make sure kids get home safely so parents do not have to worry about what has happened. It means elderly people who need assistance with ticketing or directions on which train to catch are not going to have anyone to turn to. Also, the public toilets are not going to be left open. Where are people supposed to turn when this happens on weekends?

It is simply unfathomable that these hours are being cut and that people are going to lose tens of thousands of dollars in wages at a time when their wages should be increased. When they are facing cost-of-living pressures, the government is cutting their wages. I simply do not understand how the government think they can get away with doing this. It is simply Campbell Newman 2.0, just wrapped up in a pretty bow under the Crisafulli LNP government. When things go wrong—and things will go wrong—there will be no-one to turn to, and anything that happens on those tracks will be at the hands of this government.

The transport minister is claiming that there is nothing to see here—that there are no changes. I invite the transport minister to go out and talk to people in the community and ask them what they think about these changes, because I have been out at the stations and people are appalled at these changes. They do not want to see this happen. They want their hours restored, and I will be calling on the government to do this. I would like them to reverse these changes, which are proposed to come into effect in May, and do better.