




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Public Transport

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (9.06 pm): The mask is slipping. It has managed to hang on for over a year, but what we are seeing right now from this LNP government is a return to type—the same DNA, the same playbook, the same cuts. Seven hundred Queensland Rail workers will be gone from May Day—700 workers who are the backbone of safety, accessibility and support across our rail network, cut by a government that promised Queenslanders they would not do this.

This is Campbell Newman mark 2. This is David Crisafulli taking Queensland backwards. Let's be very clear about what these cuts mean for the real world. They are not just numbers on a spreadsheet. They are the difference between a station that is safe and a station that is not. They are the difference between a system that is accessible and one that locks people out, because when you cut staff you cut support. You cut help for a person with a disability who needs a ramp to get on a train. You cut assistance for a young parent trying to get a pram onto the platform. You cut guidance for an elderly passenger who simply needs help to navigate the network. You cut the safety net for thousands of school students travelling each and every day. Let's not forget the level crossings at three of the stations I am talking about.

This is what cuts look like on the ground in my electorate: no staff at all over the weekends at Wynnum, Lindum, Hemmant, Lota and Wynnum North and only on a Saturday at Wynnum Central station. During the week, Wynnum station will be manned from 5 am to 9 am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and from 5 am to 1 pm on a Wednesday. That is a bit kooky. At Hemmant station there will be no staff from 1 pm on weekdays. At Lota station the same is true: there will be no staff after 1 pm on weekdays. At Wynnum North station commuters will be left on their own from 12.36 pm. At Lindum station, as I said, there will be no staff on weekends. At Wynnum Central, the busiest station, the heart of our bayside, there will be no staff at all on a Sunday.

Of the seven stations in my electorate, only Manly remains fully staffed and fully functional. Across the remaining six stations—Wynnum, Lindum, Hemmant, Lota, Wynnum North and Wynnum Central—there will be a rail network that simply switches off human support halfway through the day and on weekends. Six stations that serve hardworking baysiders are now facing reduced staffing, reduced safety and reduced accessibility.

This is not a public transport system; this is reckless abandonment. We know that staffed stations deter antisocial behaviour, we know that they provide immediate assistance and response in emergencies and we know that they are critical for people with disabilities. Without staff, many Queenslanders will simply not be able to use the network. This is not just bad policy; it is a failure of basic fairness.