

## Question on Notice

No. 1052

Asked on 14 September 2021

**MR M BOOTHMAN** ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

### QUESTION:

With reference to the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority's Compliance Unit—

Will the Minister advise how many non-compliances the unit has identified and provide details of each, including the rectification actions required?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Theodore for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government's priority is to ensure Queenslanders benefit first and foremost when it comes to government-funded infrastructure projects.

The Cross River Rail Delivery Authority (the Delivery Authority) established a dedicated compliance unit in February 2020, appointing a Chief Compliance Officer to ensure that the commitments made by the contractors are being met. The introduction of the compliance unit to the project has resulted in significant benefits in safety performance, apprenticeship and training opportunities. Compliance unit activities are assisting to maximise opportunities for economic and social benefit and to facilitate the efficient delivery of the Cross River Rail project.

Audit activity undertaken by the Delivery Authority's compliance unit to date indicates that the head contractors and sub-contractors are meeting their contractual obligations.

For example, the project has achieved over 10 million work hours. The total recordable injury frequency rate (TRIFR) is 3.3, compared to an industry average TRIFR of 9.3 for the civil construction sector. The activity of the compliance unit has resulted in an increased focus on safety by all contractors, supporting a strong safety environment.

Across the project to date, a total of approximately \$1.2 billion has been spent on engaging 1500 local contractors and sub-contractors, which equates to approximately 90 per cent of total contractor spend. The compliance unit has implemented a detailed program of audit and assurance activities, with all main contractors and a sample of sub-contractors having been audited. The audit and assurance activities are used to confirm that head contractors are fulfilling their contractual obligations in relation to best practice principles.

Contractors and sub-contractors are required to provide best practice industrial relations, ensuring consistency in approach to the management of industrial relations matters in compliance with the *Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)*. The compliance unit continues to monitor the performance of contractors and the implementation of the Industrial Relations Management Plan to confirm compliance with industrial relations agreements, reviewing industrial relations issues and ensuring risks are identified, assessed and managed.

The compliance unit assurance activities confirm that additional employment and training opportunities for Queensland trainees and apprentices have been created, which ultimately improves the skills base and enhances the future workforce in the building and construction industry. To date, a total of over 420,000 apprentice/trainee training hours have been completed for a total of 285 apprentices/trainees employed across contractors and sub-contractors working on the project.