

Question on Notice

No. 654

Asked on 24 May 2023

MR R MOLHOEK ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS AND MINISTER FOR DIGITAL SERVICES (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the tragic rail accident that claimed the life of a Queensland Rail driver at Westwood in June 2021—

Will the Minister (a) list the actions that Queensland Rail has taken, or will take, to avoid a repeat of the incident, (b) when these measures were, or will be, implemented and (c) if there have been any personnel changes at Queensland Rail due to the failures that led to this incident occurring?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Southport for the question.

The Queensland Rail community remains deeply saddened by this incident and the loss of a colleague. Queensland Rail continues to support the family of the deceased, as well as the other two drivers and their families. At Queensland Rail, safety is paramount. Queensland Rail remains committed to operating a safe railway, learning from this incident and doing all that can be done to prevent it from happening again.

Since the incident, Queensland Rail has implemented a comprehensive program to improve safety on the network. On 21 June 2021, Queensland Rail suspended all mainline 'long end leading' (LEL) operations both on its own network, and as an operator of its trains on other networks.

Subsequently, on 25 June 2021, the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator (ONRSR) issued a safety alert, requiring all rail infrastructure managers and rollingstock operators to review the risks associated with LEL operations (if applicable) by the end of July 2021. Queensland Rail complied with directions contained in the Safety Alert.

Queensland Rail has since permanently codified restrictions on LEL into their Safety and Environment Management System. Queensland Rail continues to focus on Signals Passed at Danger prevention activities. Queensland Rail has worked cooperatively with ONRSR (and other authorities) to improve rail safety and will continue to do so.

Regarding personnel changes, I am advised by Queensland Rail that it is not appropriate to comment about individual human resource matters.