

Question on Notice

No. 166

Asked on Tuesday, 20 February 2007

MR JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR LUCAS)—

QUESTION:

With reference to staffing levels of the Citytrain network—

- (1) How many train drivers are employed on a full time basis on the Citytrain network?
- (2) How many vacancies for train drivers exist/existed on the Citytrain network (reported separately) for 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 to date (reported separately)?
- (3) What recruitment and training programs have been in place or are still in place to fill the vacant positions and what level of success has been achieved?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honorable Member for his question.

- (1) There are currently 442 train drivers employed on a full-time basis on the Citytrain network.
- (2) The following table details employment data for train drivers employed on the Citytrain network for the years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Citytrain Drivers - 2002-03 to 2006-07

Year	Demand	Actual	Variance
2002-03	373	386	+13
2003-04	396	372	-24 *
2004-05	396	387	-9
2005-06	396	368	-28 **
2006-07	411	442	+31

* 2003-04 - In 2003-04, QR's Citytrain recruitment and selection process for traincrew was reviewed as a number of surplus drivers were identified in other areas of the State. The growth in the QR coal business in 2004 absorbed this driver surplus.

** 2005-06 - In addition to the above, a further 29 Citytrain drivers took advantage of the corporately approved Medical Invalidity Process, resigned or left unexpectedly.

QR Citytrain currently has 91 transferred or trainee drivers at various stages of training. It is anticipated that these drivers will progressively be assessed and this will meet the requirements of the March 2008 Citytrain timetable.

- (3) The recruitment of traincrew within QR is via the Traincrew Selection and Transfer Guidelines. This is an adjunct to the registered industrial instrument, the Traincrew Agreement 1997. This document provides agreed guidelines for the recruitment of traincrew.

QR has a competency-based training program that is aligned to national standards. The program consists of three key criteria - induction, theory and competency-based on track training. Individual drivers are progressively assessed on ten modules with drivers being assessed as 'competent to drive' within 12 months.

The program has successfully delivered drivers to meet QR Citytrain's demand. Due to the program being competency-based, it is tailored to meet individual and corporate compliance requirements and has an extremely high success rate.