

Question on Notice

No. 1585

Asked on Wednesday 29 October 2008

MRS CUNNINGHAM ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (MR MICKEL) —

QUESTION:

With reference to QR personnel currently working from the Gladstone Railway Station and who provide a regular opportunity for members of the public to seek information, as well as providing a measure of safety for all rail users—

Does he support the retention of these personnel based at the station to ensure a continuing and necessary presence?

ANSWER:

QRNational Coal coordinates operations across the Blackwater and Moura rail corridor from its Callemondah Rail Depot, located west of the Gladstone Central Business District.

I am advised QRNational Coal, in total, has 498 employees located at Callemondah Yard, providing administration, maintenance and traincrewing functions. Callemondah Yard services trains en route to and from RG Tanna Coal Terminal.

QRNational Coal also has 21 rail operators based at Gladstone station. The rail operators provide support for coal services travelling to Barney Point, Queensland Alumina Limited and Comalco load out terminals. However, due to a reduction of services to Barney Point, a substantial portion of the Gladstone station rail operators' current workload is providing shunting operations for QR Freight.

Conversely, the number of coal services which unload at Gladstone Port Corporation's RG Tanna Terminal have increased significantly, to an average of 195 trains per week in 2008.

With the increased workload required from Callemondah to service RG Tanna Coal Terminal, along with an overall performance improvement across the Blackwater and Moura Coal Chain, QR Limited (QR) has identified the need to improve the utilisation of current resources, particularly rail operators.

QRNational Coal wrote to the Central Queensland organiser for the Rail, Tram and Bus Union, proposing that a meeting be held to discuss improving the utilisation of QRNational Coal Rail Operators at Gladstone station. A meeting was held on 24 October 2008 between QR managers, employees and union representatives, to discuss the matter.

At the meeting a number of ideas were proposed, including trialling a new roster which alternates some rail operators' workload between Callemondah Yard and Gladstone station. This roster is being trialled over a five-week period. At the completion of this five week trial, QRNational Coal will meet with Gladstone station employees to evaluate performance improvements and establish an agreed resource plan moving forward.

QRNational Coal is committed to meeting Capricornia Coal Chain customers' needs and to using available resources effectively and efficiently.

QR's Traveltrain business will continue to operate from Gladstone station, with the office staffed between 7:30am and 5:00pm weekdays. The Traveltrain office will continue to provide high-level customer service and general information for the community.