

Question on Notice

No. 448

Asked on Tuesday, 31 July 2012

MRS CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR EMERSON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the ministerial response to the Travelsafe Committee Report No.48 that supported the committee recommendation that QR complete a safety case prior to moving to 12 hour shift rosters at any Queensland depots—

- (1) How many safety audits have been completed since the response was tabled on 1 October 2007 and at which depots?
- (2) Which depots did not change shift rosters as a result of the safety case?
- (3) What was the result of the safety case for Callemondah?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Gladstone for the question.

(1) With regards to the Travelsafe Committee Report No.48 and the rail safety case QR Ltd provided to justify the change in shift length from 11 hours to 12 hours, Transport and Main Roads' Rail Safety Regulator rolled out an extensive audit program to monitor fatigue management practices.

The Rail Safety Regulator completed a total of 21 audits between March 2008 and July 2012, targeting different railways and various divisions and worksites within the major commercial railways, including QR Ltd's Mackay and Callemondah depots (details tabulated in Attachment A). An additional four fatigue audits are scheduled to be completed in upcoming months.

In general, the rail safety audits identified that risk management strategies are effective in managing fatigue levels. No recommendations are outstanding from these fatigue audits.

(2) Since the initial safety case in 2007, the rail industry has implemented a change from 11 hour to 12 hour shifts for some rail safety workers. This change allows for additional recovery time allocated in weekly rosters. Risk management strategies have been implemented by railways to ensure that fatigue is being adequately managed and 12 hour shifts do not increase the risk of an accident at work or travelling to and from work.

QR Ltd has implemented this change across Queensland including Callemondah.

(3) The Callemondah Depot now operates on a 12 hour roster for coal train drivers. QR Ltd has implemented risk management strategies to the satisfaction of the Rail Safety Regulator.

Fatigue Audits Completed March 2008 – July 2012

Accredited Railway	Location	Date	Audit Reference
Queensland Rail	Rail Centre 1	28/03/2008	80060
QR National	Jilalan	27/03/2008	80059
Queensland Rail	Desktop	14/03/2008	80058
Pacific National	Desktop	13/03/2008	80057
Queensland Rail	Desktop	20/07/2009	80059
Queensland Rail	Desktop	06/08/2009	80060
Queensland Rail	Desktop	29/10/2009	80058
Queensland Rail	Desktop	04/08/2009	90075
	Mt Larcom,		
QR Network	Callemondah	12/11/2008	80194
QR Ltd	Callemondah yard	12/11/2008	80195
QR Ltd	Callemondah stn yard	12/11/2008	80196
Queensland Rail	Innisfail	21/11/2008	80201
Queensland Rail	Innisfail	21/11/2008	80206
QR Ltd	Mackay	20/07/2009	9001
Pacific National	Mackay	25/08/2010	10183
	Rockhampton Control		
QR Network	Centre	13/08/2011	11015
Pacific National	Mt Larcom	13/08/2011	11014
	Callemonda Track		
QR National	Gang	5/12/2011	11024
AER	Desktop- Mt Isa	15/11/2011	11045
Pacific National	Townsville	25/06/2012	11087
Pacific National	Townsville	05/12	11050