

Question on Notice

No. 25

Asked on Tuesday, 14 February 2017

MR P WEIR asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (HON J TRAD) —

QUESTION:

Will the Deputy Premier advise what support will be given to Graincorp and grain producers to address the costly delays currently being experienced when grain wagons are declared overweight and left behind at depots en route to port?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Condamine for the question.

On 30 November 2016, overload detectors were commissioned at Oakey, Helidon and Finnie, as part of a wider program of work to protect Queensland Rail infrastructure and provide a safe operation. This means that for the first time, the loads of all trains travelling down the Toowoomba range to the Port of Brisbane were monitored by Queensland Rail.

I am advised the weighing technology is guaranteed to be accurate to between three and five per cent and is in common use on rail networks around the world. Its reliability has been proven on the Mount Isa line.

It has always been, and still remains, the responsibility of customers to load their trains within the specified weight limit set out in Queensland Rail's access agreement.

Prior to the installation of overload detectors, Queensland Rail relied on customer loading practices to comply with the specified weight limit outlined in the agreement.

Queensland Rail will work with Graincorp to help limit the impact to its business. However, safety is Queensland Rail's number one priority and overloaded wagons will be managed appropriately to ensure a safe and reliable network is continued to be provided.