

Question on Notice

No. 515

Asked on Thursday, 3 May 2018

MR S MINNIKIN ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)

QUESTION:

With reference to the schedule on page 12 of the December 2017 progress report on fixing the trains—

Will the Minister advise (a) what is meant by the wording that the external recruitment recommendation has been completed and (b) what has been the result of this external recruitment?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Chatsworth for the question.

On 19 July 2017, during Estimates, the former Minister for Transport announced that, in line with the recommendations of the *Queensland Rail train crewing practices Commission of Inquiry* (Strachan inquiry), Queensland Rail would be opening recruitment for drivers and guards to external candidates with no prior Queensland Rail experience.

Queensland Rail commenced external recruitment activities in August 2017 to hire and train additional train crew. This is the biggest recruitment drive Queensland Rail has ever undertaken, with more than 10,000 applications for driver and guard positions having been received and requiring assessment. The external recruitment campaign is now in its final stages, with offers expected to go out in the near future.

In addition, there are currently 20 ex-Queensland Rail drivers currently in training schools, who were recruited from external organisations. Their prior experience on the South East Queensland rail network is critical in helping Queensland Rail recover from the cuts to the driver training program seen under the former LNP Government.

Given that Queensland Rail was now accepting applications from external candidates, it was documented in the September 2017 *Fixing the Trains* quarterly progress report that the intent of Recommendation 14 – ‘open recruitment process for drivers and guards to external applicants’ – had been met. This was consistently reported in the December 2017 quarterly progress report.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to implementing all 36 recommendations of the Strachan inquiry and fixing the trains to deliver Queenslanders the modern and efficient rail network they rightly expect and deserve.

In this year alone, more drivers will commence training than did under the entire term of the former LNP Government. In fact, under the previous LNP Government, zero drivers commenced training in 2014.

I note no attempt was made to externally recruit train drivers when the Member for Chatsworth was the Assistant Minister for Public Transport under the previous LNP Newman Government.