

Question on Notice

No. 591

Asked on Wednesday, 16 May 2018

MR J LISTER ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Rail's south western system—

Will the Minister advise in relation to current contractual arrangements for slashing (a) the rate paid and how is this calculated, (b) the obligations of the contractor in relation to safety, (c) was this contract subject to an open tender and (d) the reasons for choosing the current contractor?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Southern Downs for the question.

The corridor maintenance tender for Queensland Rail's South West Queensland region was an open and transparent process and was released on the Queensland Government's QTender website on 15 September 2017.

The successful contractor was awarded the contract based on their tender response, which demonstrated best commercial value. The contractor is also very experienced in managing large-scale corridor maintenance projects, with a strong emphasis on safe working practices. They have well developed internal processes and systems to manage high risk working environments, such as working in a rail corridor.

Previously, the work was carried out by a number of smaller companies, whereas now one large contractor is responsible for the contract. This contractor utilises two subcontractors when needed.

The contractor has depots in Warwick and Dalby. It is the staff at these depots who service the contract. The employees at these depots are full time, and Queensland based.

All contractors must comply with all of the relevant safety legislation and requirements that apply to Queensland Rail and its operations.