

Question on Notice

No. 1795

Asked on Thursday 24 October 2019

MR T NICHOLLS ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to overtime payments made to train crews of the Citytrain network—

Will the Minister advise the amount of overtime paid to train crews in the first quarter of 2019-2020 and how this compares to the same time last financial year?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Clayfield for the question.

Queensland Rail is now running 8290 weekly South East Queensland rail services, which is 700 more services than the LNP delivered when they were in office.

It is not unusual for operational workforces, like traincrew, to operate with a certain level of overtime as part of their standard working patterns. This enables the flexibility to meet demand changes, such as for special event services.

Queensland Rail continues to work hard to increase its supply of traincrew through the largest recruitment and training program in its history, while also supporting a 5.5 per cent increase in weekly services from 29 July 2019.

In the first quarter of 2019–20, the average overtime payment per traincrew was \$5702, compared with \$5380 in the first quarter of 2018–19. This slight variance can mainly be attributed to the annual three per cent pay increase which came into effect for traincrew in September 2018 and September 2019, in line with the Traincrew Enterprise Agreement 2017, and the fact that Queensland Rail is now delivering 430 additional weekly services since 29 July 2019.

Queensland Rail's planning for the service uplift in July 2019 reflected a managed approach towards traincrew overtime, with the unprecedented traincrew recruitment campaign ensuring it had enough drivers to reliably and sustainably increase services.

Queensland Rail's extensive modelling and planning for the return of the timetable, including the consideration of overtime levels, was endorsed by the independent Citytrain Response Unit.

This careful planning stands in contrast to the LNP who oversaw an increase in Citytrain driver overtime of over 25.2 per cent in 2014–15. This was accompanied by a net reduction of 48 drivers during the period of the LNP Government when they had full knowledge that the new Redcliffe Peninsula line was due to open in 2016 with six new stations, as well as the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games—the largest sporting event in Australia in a decade—creating high demand for Queensland Rail services on a 24/7 basis.