

Question on Notice

No. 1835

Asked on Tuesday 26 November 2019

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise for each pay cycle since March 2019, the amount of overtime paid to (a) City Train drivers and (b) City Train guards?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Everton for the question.

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 amongst its workforce to meet demand changes, such as for special event services.

Queensland Rail's use of overtime and its traincrew supply is far more sustainable now, in comparison to October 2016 when the Redcliffe Peninsula line opened, despite an additional 462 weekly services being added to the timetable between May and July 2019. In 2018–19, the average hours of overtime worked by each Citytrain driver represented an 18.09 per cent decrease, compared with 2016–17 when the Redcliffe Peninsula line opened.

Queensland Rail's extensive modelling and planning for the 2019 service uplifts reflected a managed approach towards traincrew overtime, with its unprecedented traincrew recruitment campaign ensuring there were enough drivers to reliably and sustainably increase services. This planning, including the consideration of overtime levels, was endorsed by the independent Citytrain Response Unit.

In relation to overtime costs, it is important to note 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*.

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 the 5.5 per cent increase in weekly services in 2019.

Amount of overtime paid to traincrew from March to November 2019

Fortnight (Pay Period) Ending	Amount of overtime paid to Citytrain drivers (\$ Average)	Amount of overtime paid to Citytrain Guards (\$ Average)
03-Mar-19	\$1085	\$716
17-Mar-19	\$1114	\$640
31-Mar-19	\$1002	\$737
14-Apr-19	\$1040	\$636
28-Apr-19	\$729	\$633
32 additional infill services commenced on 13 May 2019		

12-May-19	\$972	\$813
26-May-19	\$993	\$851
09-Jun-19	\$950	\$804
23-Jun-19	\$1068	\$907
07-Jul-19	\$917	\$822
21-Jul-19	\$887	\$874
430 additional services commenced on 29 July 2019 as part of Return to a Full-Service timetable		
04-Aug-19	\$779	\$779
18-Aug-19	\$820	\$642
3% pay rise as per 2017 Traincrew EBA		
01-Sep-19	\$940	\$689
15-Sep-19	\$942	\$669
29-Sep-19	\$1061	\$635
13-Oct-19	\$808	\$506
27-Oct-19	\$950	\$654
10-Nov-19	\$898	\$618
24-Nov-19	\$968	\$706

The LNP Government oversaw an increase in Citytrain driver overtime of over 25.2 per cent in the 2014–15 financial year, compared to the 2013–14 financial year.

This was accompanied by a net reduction of 48 drivers, for the 2012–13 financial year to the 2014–15 financial year, during the period of the LNP Government. This occurred when it had full knowledge that the new Redcliffe Peninsula line was due to open in 2016 with six new stations, as well as the Commonwealth Games — the largest sporting event in Australia in a decade — creating high demand for Queensland Rail services on a 24/7 basis.

The Queensland Rail driver recruitment campaign has now achieved the 200th driver with the driver commencing work in November 2019. This record recruitment campaign has contributed to overtime hours worked by traincrew last financial year, (2018–19) being reduced by 8.78 per cent when compared with 2016–17 when the Redcliffe Peninsula line opened.

Queensland Rail has continued to see overtime levels stabilising in 2018–19, despite operating 11,710 more services than in 2017–18. This improvement has continued after the return to a full service timetable.