

Question on Notice

No. 370

Asked on Wednesday 27 March 2019

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the split meal breaks applying to Queensland Rail drivers on the City Train network—

Will the Minister advise of the anticipated impact of the new arrangement on driver productivity/plate time?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Chatsworth for the question.

I can advise the Member that a sustainability assessment was conducted for this master roster change, which was approved by the Queensland Rail Board and assured by the Citytrain Response Unit.

I can also advise that 'footplate' time is just one metric Queensland Rail uses to measure train driver productivity. Footplate time is calculated by the amount of time a driver spends driving a revenue train service relative to total working hours.

Queensland Rail's rail traffic crew are required to perform many different duties during each shift to ensure the safe and effective operation of the Citytrain network, which delivers more than 7800 passenger services each week. Rail traffic crew may also be required to travel the network to join a revenue service, relieve a fellow driver or to return to their home depot at the completion of a shift.

In addition to driving revenue services, these duties include positioning units to commence revenue services across the network, preparing trains for service and undertaking safety checks, undertaking mandatory training and competencies, and conducting yard duties, including shunting and stabling of trains.

A number of factors can influence footplate time, including service alterations such as public holiday timetables and the number of drivers and guards available for revenue service.

Since Queensland Rail commenced formally reporting footplate time in February 2017, footplate time has varied, and on average for this financial year to date is currently 32.18 per cent (July 2018 to March 2019).

Under the former LNP government, when the Member for Chatsworth was the Assistant Minister for Public Transport, the average driver productivity in 2013 was 28.99 per cent.