

Question on Notice

No. 583

Asked on Thursday 4 April 2019

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide details on the expenditure incurred by Queensland Rail on hiring consultants to fix the trains and implement the recommendations of the Strachan Commission of Inquiry for the 2017–18 financial year and the year to date?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Chatsworth for the question.

Like any organisation, from time to time, Queensland Rail is required to source external support if the technical or specialised experience required is not within the business or to complement existing resources to deliver a particular project.

As noted in *The Courier-Mail* online edition on 27 July 2018, Queensland Rail spent \$15.4 million for the 2017–18 financial year. For the 2018–19 financial year-to-date (March 2019), Queensland Rail spent \$395,313 on consultants to assist with the implementation of, and in line with, the recommendations of the Queensland Rail train crewing practices commission of inquiry. This was required to strengthen a number of Queensland Rail's reporting, modelling and assurance activities, which required outside expertise to develop and implement the required additional tools.

This was a significant change management exercise and these new tools have already assisted with planning for timetable stress periods and contributed to Queensland Rail maintaining service levels across several identified stress periods in the latter half of 2018. The work of consultants will, this year, assist with further business improvements in line with the commission of inquiry recommendations.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to improving services for commuters. We have made good progress to further stabilise Queensland Rail's operations. We are focused on delivering reliable services for commuters, and the current timetable has delivered more than 95 per cent of trains on time for the past financial year.

Data published by Translink has shown a 6.5 per cent increase in South East Queensland (SEQ) public transport trips, up by 929,000 journeys, when comparing December 2017 with December 2018. There are now an extra 2.3 million train journeys in 2017–18 compared to when the LNP was in government. Queensland Rail also delivered 97.76 per cent of services on time during the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, despite unprecedented uplift and demand on services.

We are continuing to work hard to implement the recommendations of the commission of inquiry. Since 4 October 2016, 144 drivers and 274 guards have been trained and are now fully qualified and working on the SEQ network (as at 28 April 2019).

A further 79 trainee drivers and 79 trainee guards are currently in training (as at 28 April 2019). We have consistently reported the gross numbers of traincrew recruited. In net terms, we currently have 78 additional fully qualified drivers when compared with October 2016.