

Question on Notice

No. 57

Asked on Wednesday 5 February 2020

MR D PURDIE ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update on the total costs required to implement recommendations from the Strachan report (Queensland Rail train crewing practices commission of inquiry) published on 31 January 2017?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Ninderry for the question.

Queensland Rail's issues in 2016 and need for the *Queensland Rail train crewing practices commission of inquiry* (the Strachan inquiry) followed the former LNP Government's failure to start driver training in 2014, and a net reduction of 48 drivers during their period in government. It did this 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.

The cost of implementation for transport agencies of the Strachan inquiry recommendations was \$31.5 million across the 2016–17, 2017–18, 2018–19 and 2019–20 (year-to-date) financial years. The vast majority of these costs were spent during the previous 2016–17 and 2017–18 financial years, as Queensland Rail worked hard to implement the recommendations and restore its service levels for customers. With the majority of the recommendations successfully closed out, costs to implement the Strachan inquiry have significantly decreased.

This extensive work has assisted Queensland Rail to significantly improve its reporting and forecasting of traincrew numbers and timetable assurance activities, leading to a number of positive outcomes for train customers, including no timetable downgrades required since mid-2018, and the restoration of 462 weekly services successfully implemented last year.

From 2 March 2020, Queensland Rail implemented a further 32 extra weekly services and five service extensions, which will see the organisation deliver the largest number of timetabled services across South East Queensland in the organisation's history and more than ever delivered under the LNP.

South East Queensland public transport patronage is at record levels with close to 190 million trips taken on public transport in 2018–19 and, after two record years, we are on-track for another record 12 months.