

Question on Notice

No. 77

Asked on Wednesday 5 February 2020

DR C ROWAN ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Rail City Train network—

Will the Minister provide an update on (a) the total number of qualified train drivers and qualified guards employed on the network and (b) what was the overtime figure for this group for the first six months of the financial year?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Moggill 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.

It is important to note that the LNP Government 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 it 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.

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 462 weekly services being added to the timetable between May and July 2019.

In 2018–19, the use of traincrew overtime continued to stabilise, with the average hours of overtime worked by each Citytrain driver representing an 18.09 per cent decrease compared with 2016–17 when the Redcliffe Peninsula line opened.

Queensland Rail's planning for the 2019 service uplifts, and the improvements on 2 March 2020, reflect 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, has been endorsed by the independent Citytrain Response Unit.

Queensland Rail has advised that for the pay periods ending 7 July 2019 to 22 December 2019, the average fortnightly overtime figure for drivers and guards for this six-month period was approximately \$796.

Queensland Rail continues to recruit and train a pipeline of drivers and guards to ensure it continues to offer sustainable and reliable services now and into the future.

Two hundred and eighteen new drivers and 393 new guards have completed their training and entered supply since October 2016, for a net increase of 139 drivers and 159 guards taking into account attrition as at 31 January 2020.

Following the 32 additional services added on 2 March 2020, and together with the 462 weekly services added last year, it will mean there are 212,000 extra seats across the south east compared to the same time last year.

The Palaszcuk Government is delivering more SEQ train services than were ever delivered under the LNP.