



Speech by

Dr Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

Hansard Thursday, 14 February 2013

CLEVELAND RAILWAY STATION, ACCIDENT

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (3.21 pm): The train crash at Cleveland Railway Station on the morning of Thursday, 31 January was a complete shock to the residents of Cleveland. Commuters, QR staff and onlookers experienced something that, to my knowledge, has never happened before in Cleveland: the train overshooting the line and crashing through the station building. The train travelling from Ormiston station to Cleveland overshot the stop block of the station and careered into the Cleveland station building, damaging and destroying a significant portion of the recently upgraded facilities.

Within minutes the police were present, and ambulance officers and other emergency services personnel came and immediately secured the area and tended to the injured. Police established that all people were accounted for and that no-one was hidden within the wreckage or the building. It was a relief to all when ambulance officers could establish that no-one was badly hurt. While the damage to the station was extensive, no-one seriously hurt or killed and for that we are truly grateful. People were attended to and initially treated on site and 10 were taken to the Redland Hospital emergency department with minor injuries. Fortunately, no-one on the station was in the path of the train or, more specifically, in the toilets that took the major force of the impact. However, a Victoria Point teenager Brendan Hawxwell, 16 and an apprentice plasterer, was about to enter the men's toilet when the train crashed into it. A text message from his mum, Belinda Hawxwell, had diverted his attention and when he stopped to read it the train crashed into the toilet.

The recovery work was undertaken in a prompt manner. I had two inspections of the damage and recovery. The recovery and demolition team worked hard on Thursday, Friday and around the clock on Saturday night to remove the train, the stop block and broken overhead lines. The demolition team removed all of the debris and broken material. It was anticipated that it could take up to seven days before the line could reopen. Yet by Sunday morning—that is 2½ days later—trains were back on schedule. While the recovery stage is now complete, the rebuilding continues.

As the local MP, I want to thank all those who played an important part during the incident and directly after. The following people were involved by being there on site, contacting me to assist, helping the injured, providing safety, working on reopening the station or in other ways. I want to thank my staff who were at the office, Sue Hanlon and Tracey Sepecan; the Treasurer; the transport minister and his staff; QR staff, particularly Avtar and Grace; TMR staff; the mayor; federal member Andrew Laming; QPS officers, particularly Superintendent Jim Keogh; the QAS officers and any other emergency service personnel; Redland Hospital staff, doctors and nurses; and anyone else who assisted. I thank them all. Cleveland is a great community and everyone came together to help and support each other through this incident.