Question on Notice
No. 1706
 Asked on Tuesday 22 October 2019

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

QUESTION:
Will the Minister advise for 1 October 2016 to 1 October 2019, the net increase of fully qualified drivers (excluding tutors and train operation inspectors) and of those drivers, how many were externally recruited?

ANSWER:
I thank the Member for Ninderry for the question.

Queensland Rail continues to undertake the largest traincrew recruitment and training program in its history, in order to continue to deliver services sustainably and reliably, as well as ensuring a pipeline of drivers and guards for the future.

As at 10 October 2019, Queensland Rail has trained 195 new drivers for a net increase (considering natural attrition) of 122 additional qualified drivers compared with 1 October 2016.

Twenty of these additional qualified drivers are tutor drivers and train operation inspectors, who are also available to drive revenue services as required.

Of the additional qualified drivers into supply, 20 were recruited externally.

A further 46 external candidates have been offered a trainee driver position and have commenced driver training.

The Palaszczuk Government’s record on traincrew recruitment stands in stark contrast to the LNP. Under the LNP, no drivers started training in 2014, and this was accompanied by a net reduction of 48 drivers during the period it was in government.

The LNP did this 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-hour, seven-days-a-week basis.

The Palaszczuk Government now operates 8290 services per week on the South East Queensland Citytrain network, which is 700 more services than the LNP ever did.