



QUEENSLAND BRANCH

RTBU MEDIA

AUTHORISED BY OWEN DOOGAN BRANCH SECRETARY

Level 1, 457 Upper Edward Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

Email: info@rtbu.com.au • Website: www.rtbu.com.au

Phone: 3839 4988 • Fax: 3832 1278

21 October 2016

Secret LNP plan to privatise CityTrains sparks network delays

Secret Newman Government plans to privatise Brisbane's passenger trains led to the driver shortage which sparked today's widespread train delays.

Rail Tram and Bus Union State Secretary Owen Doogan has today called on former Transport Minister Scott Emerson and current Opposition leader Tim Nicholls to reveal all they know about cost-cutting as part of QR's secret preparation for franchising.

"Sources have indicated to me that the shareholding LNP ministers at the time in 2013 – Transport Minister Scott Emerson and Treasurer Tim Nicholls - were insisting on cost-cutting in QR before privatisation," he said.

Mr Doogan said the decimation of the QR driver training centre in 2013 with around 40 per cent of the tutor drivers being made redundant was also a major factor.

"Emerson and Nicholls also cut costs for signaling on the Moreton Bay line and that was a disaster, which has now had another impact on train services for commuters."

Mr Doogan said the flawed LNP signaling system on the Moreton Bay line had limited driver training for this line prior to its opening. This training is required by safety regulations.

"Adherence to driver fatigue management for the safety of passengers contributed to today's decision to cut some services.

"QR and the RTBU are both committed to ensuring passenger safety is our first priority."

"Those secret plans of Nicholls and Emerson to privatise this publicly-owned asset have backfired spectacularly today with a train driver shortage causing delays on networks," he said.

Queensland Rail today cancelled more than 100 train services in Brisbane due to a shortage of train drivers.

For further information contact **Owen Doogan** 0419769126