

QR Response to Questions on Notice

Senator LIGHTFOOT—Do you see a time when, perhaps, Queensland government may divest itself of part of its rail network?

Ms Rowland—I think we need to take that on notice.

QR answer to the Question on Notice: No.

Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Thank you for the visit yesterday. It was very informative, from our point of view, and helped us understand some of the problems and some of the better approaches you are taking to try to deal with the issues. As an organisation, do you have a strategic plan?

Ms Rowland—Yes, we do.

Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Can you make that available to the committee?

Ms Rowland—We certainly can.

QR answer to the Question on Notice: QR has a comprehensive strategic plan which contains a great deal of commercially sensitive information. For obvious reasons in a highly competitive market, this is a protected document.

At the start of 2007-08, we will provide all employees access to a summary document that sets out the key elements of the plan.

However, the final versions of the 2007-08 strategic plan and its summary have not yet been approved by the Board.

By way of example, we have provided the committee with the strategic plan summary provided to employees in the financial year 2005/06.

Senator LIGHTFOOT—That is a low ratio. Is there a study being undertaken at the moment that could give the committee some clue as to whether the ownership of government track in Queensland could be responsible, at least in part, for the logjam of coal exports? In other words, have you done some comparison with perhaps Western Australia, where there is no logjam, say, with the export of iron ore because it is private track? That may be a coincidence.

Ms Rowland—We might take that on notice.

Senator LIGHTFOOT—Could you?

Ms Rowland—Yes.

QR answer to the Question on Notice: **We are not aware of any such study being undertaken.**

Senator LIGHTFOOT—Yes, I am quite happy to do that. I guess what I was getting at was whether the maintenance of standard gauge is impairing, say, the employment position with respect to QR, and whether that is affecting the ratio of apprentices that you can employ. That is really what I was driving at.

CHAIR—You can perhaps think about that; that would be helpful.

QR answer to the Question on Notice: **We do not believe that there is any link between standard gauge rail and the employment of apprentices.**