Monday 9 April 2018

The Hon. Mark Bailey MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
GPO Box 2644
Brisbane QLD 4001

**RE: The continued unlawful operation of New Generation Rollingstock (NGR) trains in South East Queensland**

Dear Minister

I am writing to express my deep disappointment regarding your government’s and Queensland Rail’s decision to ignore the Australian Human Rights Commission’s (AHRC’s) decision not to grant a temporary exemption from certain provisions of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and continue to operate trains that do not comply with the *Disability Standards for Accessible 2002*.

This decision is deeply offensive to me and Queenslanders with Disability as it implies that our legal entitlement under the law to accessible public transport is something you can ignore. I am also dismayed that your government and rail operator have taken a piecemeal and un-consultative approach to resolving the NGR trains’ accessibility impediments.

For example, many of the submissions made by people with disability and their representative organisations to the AHRC in response to your application for the exemption have expressed dismay at your refusal to relocate the guard’s compartment to the centre of the train despite this being a clear preference of passengers with disability, and a means to guarantee they will ***always*** be able to board and disembark at the stations of their choosing.

I understand the decision to purchase the sub-standard NGR trains was made by a previous government, but this is not an adequate excuse for failing to respectfully take into consideration the lived experience and views of passengers with disability and taking responsibility for delivering an easy-to-use fully accessible public transport system in full compliance with Australian law.

I therefore implore you, your government and your rail operator to rescind the decision to unlawfully operate the non-compliant NGR trains, apologise to the disability community for doing so, and begin a genuinely consultative and conciliatory process to resolve ***all*** their grievances.

Yours Sincerely

<<Your name>>
<<Your address>>
<<Town>> <<State>> <<Postcode>>
<<Your phone number>>
<<Your email address>>