

14 March 2018

Second submission by [Brendon Charles Donohue](#) in relation to the Human Rights Commission's preliminary decision regarding the Application for temporary exemptions under the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 (Cth) and The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) on 15/03/2018. Joint application by the State of Queensland (acting through the Department of Transport and Main Roads) and Queensland Rail.

Dear Commissioners,

I thank you for doing the right thing by refusing to grant the majority of the temporary exemptions sought by the applicants in this matter. I believe that to have granted the exemptions as requested would not have been within the spirit and objects of The Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 (Cth) and the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth), notwithstanding the transport provider's operational challenges. I would like to add that the NDIS is about to roll-out in Brisbane and this is not the time for the state government to be dragging the chain on providing access to public transport to people with disabilities.

I understand that boarding and alighting access arrangements are not within the scope of Queensland's application to the Commission. As a very frequent train traveler who is completely blind, I am still very concerned about the impractical position of the guard cabin at the rear of the train, 70 metres away from people with vision impairments and mobility impairments congregating at the accessible boarding point which has been a successful and safe boarding moddle for menny years. While Queensland Rail is trying to make an effort to ensure equivalent access for now, I am not confident that casual customer service staff who have been hired by Queensland Rail to provide boarding assistance will still be in place after the Commonwealth 2018 Games, and I am certainly not confident at all, that the casual customer service staff hired by Queensland Rail to provide access with boarding and exiting NGR Model Trains will continue to provide access assistance until NGR 'retirement.

Yours sincerely,

14 March 2018

Brendon Charles Donohue.

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