

ONLINE ARTICLE

Title:	"RTA truck drivers quit with live export uncertainty remaining"
Authors:	Amy Phillips and David Lewis
Date:	Tuesday, 12 July 2011
Publication:	ABC Rural
Copyright:	ABC
Address:	< http://www.abc.net.au/rural/qld/content/2011/07/s3267728.htm >
Accessed:	Friday, 22 June 2012

Road Trains of Australia says around five truck drivers have quit their jobs despite the resumption of the live cattle export trade.

RTA has around a dozen trucks sitting idle in Mount Isa and another eight parked in Longreach.

Queensland Manager, Mike Bailey, says the delay in getting the trade resumed with Indonesia was too much for some employees.

"They're just on a minimum wage while they're sitting in the yard so they're not making any great fortune.

"There are some drivers that have left because it's quiet and they can't make ends meet with the wage they're on at the moment."

Executive director of the Australian Livestock Transporters Association say they are hearing the same thing from many of their members.

Philip Halton says it looks like it's going to be a very tough end to the year for trucking companies and drivers.

"The expectation is there is going to be a reduced volume of trade to Indonesia this year, we're hearing percentages that range from 15 per cent through to 40 per cent that might be restored this year.

"For our members, that means there's going to be less work delivering livestock to the export port heading to Indonesia."