

# ONLINE ARTICLE

<b>Title:</b>	"Damaged Winton rail bridge halts livestock transport"
<b>Author:</b>	Paul Sutherland
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday, 7 March 2012
<b>Publication:</b>	ABC Rural
<b>Copyright:</b>	ABC
<b>Address:</b>	< <a href="http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201203/s3447597.htm">http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201203/s3447597.htm</a> >
<b>Accessed:</b>	Friday, 22 June 2012

Livestock rail services have come to a grinding halt in the Winton Shire in western Queensland.

The Darr River Bridge was damaged two weeks ago, and Queensland Rail say it won't be repaired until July.

Ed Warren, the Mayor of the Winton Shire, says livestock need to be transported by road at huge cost.

"It's estimated that somewhere between 80,000 and 90,000 cattle were earmarked to be loaded from Winton in 2012," he says.

"Transporting cattle by road means extra expense, but at the same time it's more trucks on the road that's causing damage to the road infrastructure."

Mr Warren says QR had originally said the bridge would be repaired within 8 weeks.

QR (Queensland Rail) said in a statement that it's aware of the implications the closure of the Darr River Bridge will have on the town of Winton and its cattle industry.

The statement says estimates for timing and cost of repair are reliant upon an engineering investigation of options for repair and replacement.

The company says it's working with cattle train operators on alternative transport arrangements ahead of the upcoming cattle season.