

**Question on Notice**

**No. 396**

**Asked on 28 March 2006**

MR CALTABIANO asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR LUCAS) –

**QUESTION:**

Will he identify by location and load limit all road and rail bridges that are operational throughout Queensland that take loads from road vehicles and trains in excess of the load rating for these bridges?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the honourable member for his question.

The Department of Main Roads advises that bridges are built to different standards, depending on road traffic requirements and when the bridge was constructed. General access heavy vehicles operate on the road network at legal axle loadings without restriction but must comply with posted bridge load restrictions.

I am further advised that Main Roads does not permit any vehicle to cross a bridge in excess of its safe capacity and that, to ensure bridges remain in a safe condition for all road users, Main Roads regularly inspects its bridge stock.

If the honourable member is aware of any evidence where individuals are exceeding load limits and contravening the law, I would urge you to pass this information to Queensland Transport to investigate.

For road bridges that are owned by Queensland Rail, I am advised that the honourable member should refer to the above.

I am advised by Queensland Transport that loads from locomotives are strictly controlled through the rail access process. On a coal or mineral train, where loads on a bridge from locomotives and wagons may be similar, loadings from locomotives are controlled under the rail access process, while wagon loads are controlled by weigh bridges at loading.