

Question on Notice

No. 153

Asked on 8 March 2011

MR JOHNSON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (MS PALASZCZUK)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the first cattle train from Winton in 2011 carrying 823 head which derailed at 11.30pm on 3 March 2011?

- (1) Did Queensland Rail advise vendors and a meat processing company seven days prior to the derailment that to use it would be at their own risk?
- (2) Did Queensland Rail know that the line was unsafe or is it the policy of Queensland Rail to persuade cattle producers to not use the rail initiative for carriage of cattle?
- (3) Is this a vote of confidence in Queensland Rail for Queensland cattle producers and processors?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Gregory for the question.

While Queensland Rail is the owner of the rail network, it does not provide freight services.

However, the Central line was reopened west of Emerald on 27 February 2011 following repairs required as a result of damage caused by flooding.

Thorough inspections of the line were carried out prior to the corridor being reopened. A number of trains, including the *Spirit of the Outback* travelled on the line without incident in the days following its reopening.

In relation to the cattle train that derailed at Drummond near Alpha, in this instance, the wagons and locomotive remained upright and were removed to assist in the investigation. The rail line was repaired and reopened on 7 March 2011 and it has been open to full rail traffic since.

The rail regulator is managing the investigation.