

Question on Notice

No. 321

Asked on Wednesday, 1 May 2013

MR KATTER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR EMERSON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the level of traffic along our roads network that is already far too high and the rail line, if run efficiently is under utilised—

(1) Will the Minister confirm that there are no plans to have 120 cattle rail wagons removed from the Aurizon Fleet on the grounds that there are too many wagons?

(2) Will the Minister further guarantee that this will not lead to an exit of Aurizon from the livestock industry so that stakeholders have fair warning on having to use the alternative of road transport?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Mount Isa for the question.

Cattle transportation by Rail in Queensland has been supported via the Livestock Transport Services Contract between the Department of Transport and Main Roads (purchaser of services) and Aurizon (service provider) since Labor sold off this portion of the rail business without warning in 2010.

Aurizon is now a publicly floated, private sector company that does not operate under the jurisdiction of the government. Aurizon is the owner and is responsible for maintaining the operational rolling stock, including cattle wagons, utilised for rail transport.

(1) Although Aurizon has flagged an aging cattle wagon fleet, they have noted that there are no plans to have 120 cattle rail wagons removed or eliminated.

(2) The term of the Livestock Transport Services Contract is July 2010 to December 2015. There has been no discussion between Aurizon and the Department of Transport and Main Roads with regard to an early exit from this agreement.