

Is council to blame for derail?

AN investigation has been ordered into whether or not the grading of a road by Bundaberg Regional Council caused a cane train to derail.

A Bundaberg Sugar locomotive pulling 65 bins jumped the tracks near Alloway yesterday.

The accident caused a four-hour delay and two cranes were required to get the train back on track.

Bundaberg Regional Council had graded the road the day before and is now undertaking an investigation to determine whether this was the cause of the accident.

Despite minor damage, the locomotive later resumed operation.

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Heavy lifting was required to put this loco back on track after a derailment near Nedwich Road, Alloway, yesterday.

Photo: MAX FLEET qr2210a

Rail incident investigated

By VANESSA MARSH

BUNDABERG Regional Council will hold an internal investigation after suggestions it could have been responsible for a cane train derailment yesterday.

A Bundaberg Sugar train hauling 65 empty bins was derailed near Nedwich Road, Alloway, about 9am after hitting dirt in the tracks.

The road had been graded by council employees the day before, and council workplace health and safety officers are investigating to determine if this was the cause of the accident.

Council roads and drainage operations manager Adam Wyatt said no details were available yesterday afternoon.

"Council is currently investigating the situation and will present our findings when complete," he said.

The train was travelling to the Coonarr Road area to drop off empty bins and pick up full ones to be delivered to Millaquin Mill.

Bundaberg Sugar general manager Ray Hatt said the two men on-board the train escaped with minor scratches and bruises.

"The driver was a bit shaken up,

but he's okay," he said.

Mr Hatt said the company was not alerted to the grading of the road.

"As far as I know they (council) didn't let us know, but they don't need to as long dirt hasn't been pushed into the lines," he said.

Mr Hatt said he expected an investigation into circumstances surrounding the derailment.

"There has been a build-up of material in the lines and it needs to be investigated by the council," he said.

Minor damage was caused to the train and one cane bin.

The accident caused no major delays, but rescheduling was required

for the track.

Stewart and Sons Steel supervisor Mark Dilger was involved in getting the 38-tonne locomotive back on track.

"It went very well. We got in and hooked it up and lifted it up with no problems," he said.

"Every crush we get a few derailments, it's nothing too unusual for us."

The tracks were cleared and the train was put back into operation by 1pm.

Results of the council's investigation into the incident are expected early next week.



Heavy cranes were brought in to help lift a derailed loco back on track near Nedwich Road yesterday.

Photo: MAX FLEET qr2210e