

# Rising floods trap two drivers in derailed train

TWO train drivers were trapped for almost five hours in rapidly rising floodwaters yesterday when their train was derailed.

The locomotives and six wagons of the fully-laden coal train toppled over in driving rain just after crossing the rail bridge at Two Mile Creek near Blackwater, in central Queensland, shortly before 1.45am.

The rest of the 102-wagon train remained on the bridge.

The accident happened when the drivers, in darkness and "ferocious" rain, unknowingly hit a section of track which had been washed away but which remained under water.

The trapped drivers called for help from their cabin as floodwaters from the nearby creek threatened to submerge them.

Attempts by the State Emergency Service and police to reach the drivers by boat failed and Rockhampton's Capricorn rescue helicopter service was called in.

The drivers, aged 37 and 49, who were from Bluff near Emerald, were plucked from the cabin by the helicopter crew at 6.30am, just as floodwaters reached their waists.

They escaped their ordeal with minor injuries and were taken to Blackwater Hospital.

"They're in very good spirits," a Queensland Rail spokeswoman said.



The derailed train trucks yesterday.

Picture: PHILIP NORRISH