



Bailey's Bridge at Wallaville, a rare style of construction.

# Bailey's bridge threat

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## Historical bridge faces an uncertain future

BAILEY'S Bridge at Wallaville faced an uncertain fate in July 2002, with Kolan Shire Council considering the demolition of the structure.

After considering several options council decided that the bridge was simply too costly to repair.

Council engineer Allen Christensen said the bridge only serviced a few Wallaville residents and constantly had a two-tonne load limit.

While demolition was one option, Mr Christensen said the use of the

bridge as a footbridge was still being considered.

Local resident Dianne Bailey said the removal of the bridge would inconvenience many locals who used it as a shortcut.

She said the loss of the bridge could add an additional 12km to the journey of some residents.

Ms. Bailey said the bridge was believed to be one of the last three-span wooden bridges of its type in Queensland.

She said it was specially constructed to allow steam engines to pass under it.

The bridge was originally owned by Queensland Railways and is thought to have passed to the care of council sometime in the 1970s.

Bundaberg Sugar only had a responsibility to maintain the rail lines on which it hauled sugarcane to the Bingera Mill.

In April 2004, the Gin Gin Historical Society was attempting to gather enough support to save the old bridge.

Estimates to repair the bridge ranged from \$50,000 to \$150,000.

Wallaville locals suggested an area around the approaches to the bridge be developed as a community park.