

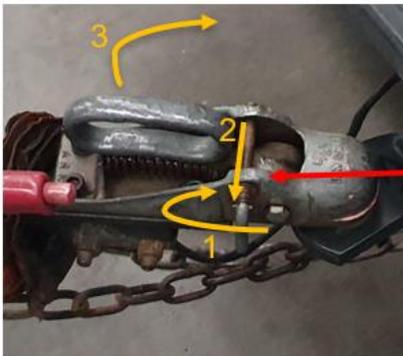
SAFETY! ALERT!



Hired EWP Detached from Ute tow ball

WHAT HAPPENED?

- The retaining spring of a hired EWP was defective/broken. The spring holding the locking pin in position on the coupling is an integral part of stopping the EWP from jumping off the tow ball.
- Although in place when leaving the hire center, the defective spring/pin worked its way out of its retaining slot.
- This then rattled clear across the coupling handle mechanism and enabled it to lift up and disengage off the tow ball.



Spring had lost its tension and allowed the pin to rotate (#1) and slide back (#2), allowing the handle to lift up under load (#3).



Normal retainer slot that relies on the spring tension to hold the locking pin in position.

IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN

- Pulled over and assessed the damage to the Ute. Due to the length of the safety chains, extensive damage occurred to the tail door and canopy section of the Ute.
- Re-attached the EWP and wired the mechanism closed to continue the journey.

ROOT CAUSE

- Poorly maintained trailer coupling by Hire company.
- Driver failed to pick up that the coupling had a defective spring on the retainer pin that keeps the handle in the down position/locked onto the tow ball fitting.

LEARNINGS

- When picking up hire equipment, all components need to be carefully inspected before use.
- Where possible, limit the length of the safety chain to minimise movement of the EWP if it detaches from the tow ball.

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