

QUALITY ALERT!

11 April 2025



Fifty cattle escaped from paddock

ISSUE IDENTIFIED: Electric fence left inoperative

A work crew recently left an electric fence system inoperative after a gate had been closed incorrectly and it was not reconnected to the supply. It is essential to ensure electric fence gates are correctly reattached otherwise this may allow stock to escape.

Electric fences are commonly used on farms visited by Transpower and Service Providers. They come in a variety of forms from a simple wire, tape or bungy to more complex set ups with multiple tapes and attachment points.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS: Poor communication and lack of understanding of how electric fences operate

- Multiple crews accessed the paddock, and a different person closed the gate than opened it.
- The person who reattached the gate did not understand how it should be correctly configured to ensure the fences were still live.

ACTIONS TO PREVENT REOCCURENCE: Educate and inform field staff

- Educate field staff about how electric fences operate and the different types they will encounter
- Appoint a gate manager to take responsibility for correct reattaching of gates when multiple crews are accessing through gates
- Use an electric fence test unit to show whether the fence is live
- Ask the landowner to explain the operation of the electric fences
- Take photographs of the gate and fence set up on entry and exit
- Contact the landowner or your LOLO if you are unsure if the fence is operating correctly



LEARNINGS FROM THIS

- Incorrectly securing gates can have serious cost and stock safety implications as well as damage our social licence to operate
- Service providers and Transpower staff need to ensure that gates are left as found



For more information, please contact:

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