



# SAFETY! ALERT!



4 December 2025

## Tractor rolled backwards damaging property fences

### WHAT HAPPENED?

While moving a tractor from a neighbouring property to the work site, a contractor worker parked the tractor on sloped ground. The worker walked away to move other machinery and suddenly heard a loud noise. The worker went back to the work site and observed that the tractor had rolled away backwards approximately 180 metres, coming to a rest in a ditch at the bottom of the hill at the property boundary. The incident resulted in damaged fences on the landowner's property. Nobody was in the tractor or the paddocks and there were no reported injuries in this incident.

### IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN

The tractor was retrieved from the ditch using a digger and safely parked on site. The contractor worker was asked to undertake a drug and alcohol test, which returned negative results. A post-incident inspection of the tractor was carried out, and the braking and park systems are in good condition.

### ROOT CAUSE

- This tractor is equipped with a single parking brake system, whereby the gear lever is put in the park position to apply the brakes. The braking system appears to have not been applied or fully engaged at the time of the event.
- The contractor suspects that while reaching for the earmuffs left near the controls, he may have inadvertently and unknowingly moved the gear lever, shifting it from 'Park' to 'Neutral'.



### LEARNINGS

- Verify that the gearbox is in the 'Park' position and brake is fully engaged before exiting the cabin.
- Preferably find a level surface to park on.
- Ensure wheel chocks are used when parking on sloped grounds.
- Keep tools and equipment away from controls at all times.
- Provide designated storage areas for all tools and equipment.

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