FA093 - Loss of Control of Tractor on Steep Terrain

HPE: Moving vehicles

Incident	Description	
Event Date: 23/09/2026	**Time:** 14:03	**Location:** 156 Perrott Road, Arapuni
Investigation Status:	**On-going**	**NP Reference / External Reference:** OCC17539 / Maximo #186736



What happened?

While completing a three-point turn on a ridge, the front wheels of a tractor went over the crest of the hill. The tractor was carrying an empty concrete bowl. When the brakes were applied, the wheels locked on one side, causing the tractor and bowl to slide downhill in an uncontrolled manner.

To stop the plant from continuing down the hill, the operator steered the tractor into a transmission tower. This brought the tractor to a stop and prevented further movement. The operator was not injured, and the tower sustained minor steel damage

What could have happened?

If the tractor had continued sliding downhill, there was potential for serious injury to the operator or others in the area, as well as further damage to the plant. If the tractor had struck one of the main tower legs, there was also potential for significant damage to network assets

Actions Required / Messages:

An investigation is underway.

Until more information is available, crews should take extra care when operating mobile plant on steep or uneven terrain, especially when turning near ridges, crests, or drop-offs.

Before operating plant, ensure:

- Ground conditions have been assessed.
- Travel routes and turning areas are suitable.
- Operators understand the limitations of the plant and attachments being used.
- A safe alternative is considered if terrain conditions increase the risk of loss of control

Supporting References:	*Nil*
For more information	Jared Fowler, Operations Manager, Transmission Lines Ph 0272333726

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