TRANSPOWER

FIRST ALERT

Pivot Irrigator contacted 110kv circuit

On Monday 12 February at 7:00am a pivot irrigator being commissioned was stopped near tower GNY WTK 52, with the highest point of the irrigator positioned directly below the OAM BPT WTK 1 circuit. The irrigator was then left unattended. At 11:40am with the load and rise in ambient temperature the conductor sagged sufficiently to cause a flash over and trip the circuit. The power surge resulted in damage to the control box on the pivot irrigator, damage to the switch board in a farm house over 1 km away and popped the fuses on a pole on the roadside. No one was in the vicinity at the time. A subsequent helicopter patrol identified the cause of tripping with the tip of the irrigator approx. 300mm from the nearest conductor.

Immediate actions

- The line was isolated and earthed and the irrigator was removed.
- Maximum sag calculations undertaken and mitigation measures agreed upon with the Landowner
- An investigation is taking place

For more information, please contact:

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