Coupling bolt fell from Crane

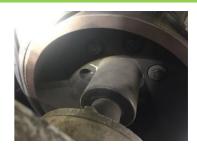
WHAT HAPPENED?

During a standard operating test of the Islington Crane, a coupling bolt was found embedded in the top of a storage table below the crane. The bolt had fallen from the crane some time earlier. The crane was last certified in January 2018. The bolt dropped from a height of about 8m. While hard hats are worn when the crane is in use, a person standing below could still have been injured if they had been struck by the bolt.



IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN

- The crane was isolated, and the incident was reported to Transpower.
- Service Provider located the missing nut and reinstalled the coupling bolt.
- The other coupling nuts were checked for tightness.



ROOT CAUSE

Vibrations during operation of the crane caused the coupling nut to loosen over time. Eventually, the nut came completely off, and the bolt came free and fell out.

LEARNINGS

- All nuts should be tightened to manufacturer specifications.
- Paint pens should be used to mark the position of nuts when tightened. This provides a reference for future inspections.
- The incident reinforces the importance of wearing hard hats when the crane is being operated.

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Incident Date	08/10/2018