



Assess the road for safety

WHAT HAPPENED?

Transpower has recently recorded two safety incidents that highlight how important it is to assess the road for safety when driving.

The two incidents **both involved trucks towing trailers on hill tracks**. Both times there was a **failure to properly assess the track condition before proceeding**.

In both incidents the truck lost traction and slid backwards, with the trailer jack-knifing as a result.



LEARNINGS

Whether you're driving off-road or on-road, always assess the track or road for safety.

- Consider:
 - weather conditions
 - the state of the road
 - time of year
 - potential hazards
 - suitability of the track for use (for example, has there been excessive vehicle use, stock movement, or land damage since the initial access assessment?).
- Immediately before using an off-road track, carry out a route assessment. Walk hilly areas of the track first if you are unsure of the track conditions.
- If track conditions are poor, consider alternatives, such as using a more suitable vehicle, a different route, or delaying the driving/postponing the work. Implement a contingency plan if the track is unsafe.

- Read more about requirements for off-road access planning and use in [TP.SS.06.26 Mobile plant, vehicles, and powered equipment](#).