

## Plant Rollover on Henty Highway

### Background

Pavement repair works were being undertaken on Henty highway involving mechanical and chemical stabilisation of the top 150mm road pavement when a roller overturned. Documentation was in place which clearly outlined the safe systems of work for the project. Site staff were aware of the safe systems of work and risk mitigation measures as these had been openly and regularly discussed during the Site induction and Toolbox Meetings. Some site staff did not fully comprehend the risks associated with their works and the potential consequences of not complying with the safe systems of work.

### Contributing Factors

There was a perception that productivity and quality sometimes conflicted with safety. This led some staff to knowingly choose not to comply with the safe systems of work in an effort to improve the quality of the product. The safety culture on site was not imbedded and as such relied to a large extent on a small number of individuals indentifying unsafe acts and calling behaviours.

The key decisions made by the roller operator which led to the incident were:

- The roller was positioned within the 500mm no go zone in order to improve edge compaction;
- The rolling operation commenced along the low side of the patch, increasing the effective cross fall of the roller;



(Commencing from high side of patch) (Roller on natural cross fall) (Commencing on low side of the patch)

- The operator articulated the rear of the roller toward the centre of the road in order to avoid a guidepost. The articulation of the roller whilst in vibration mode caused the roller to move sideways and tip slightly onto the soft verge which was incapable of supporting the vibrating machine.



# Safety Alert

January 2015



## Actions

- Ensure that SWMS are reviewed and, where necessary, strengthened when compaction works are likely to occur near embankments. Consideration must be given for suitable plant for the work task;
- When organising plant operator training, ensure that safety awareness is included, and provide refresher training for operators; and
- Strengthen the safety culture by ensuring that the first message in any meeting or discussion relates to safety and calling unsafe site tasks or activities.