

Plant on Plant Interaction – High Potential Incident

A 36T excavator was working adjacent to a haul road. When the water cart drove past, the excavator operator has swung on the blind side and the bucket of the excavator struck the cab of the water cart, displacing the roof of the vehicle cabin.



LESSONS LEARNT INCLUDE:

- Exclusion zones need to encompass all operational movements of the mobile plant i.e., machine at full reach, use of attachments and the counterweight of the machines.
- In this incident, the excavator was operating next to a haul road. Where possible, this scenario should be avoided through appropriate traffic management plans. If this cannot be achieved due to site constraints, other controls should be implemented such as closing the route, or having a person manage traffic movements in coordination with plant operators.
- When passing plant is entering exclusion zones, always communicate with the plant operator and confirm plant is isolated before passing or entering the exclusion zone.
- Machine operators are required to lower attachments to the ground and confirm the mobile plant is positively isolated (e.g., blue light on) before confirming access into the exclusion zone.
- Slew locks should be considered for use on excavators where there is potential for excavators to slew into operational roadways.