

Our ref: CM-2009  
Your ref: COR 2009 005594

2 July 2015

Josh Munro  
Coroners Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Mr Munro

## RESPONSE TO FINDINGS INTO THE DEATH OF BRIAN G MILNES

Please find below Energy Safe Victoria's (ESV) responses to the Coroner's recommendations from the investigation into the death of Brian G Milnes.

ESV is responding to the recommendations in which it is named and has also provided details of the actions it is taking in response to the recommendations made in relation the deaths of Dallas Anderson, Brian Baker and John Jones (COR 2006 1427, 2006 0101, 2006 1546).

### Recommendation 1 – High Voltage Proximity warning devices:

*“With the aim of minimising contact incidents with overhead power lines by tipper truck trailers, I recommend that WorkSafe and Energy Safe Victoria invest in the evaluation of proximity warning devices to determine their efficacy, applicability and practicability to tipper trucks.”*

ESV has investigated the applicability of High Voltage (HV) proximity devices and has found that a Queensland company, ProxyVolt, has two commercially available voltage detection systems for tipper trucks.

One of these systems requires calibration at each new location and to do this the driver needs to know the voltage of the powerline and the desired operating conditions. Given that many tipper trucks deliver to multiple sites each day, ESV does not believe that a device that requires manual calibration is the most practicable solution to ensure safety outcomes.

ProxyVolt's second system is preset and has no visible setting controls, which eliminates operator adjustment and avoids the need for the driver to calibrate the system at each new delivery location. Accordingly, ESV believes this option is preferable.

The unit detects a range of High Voltage distribution lines (from 11,000 volts up to 66,000 volts) and will alarm at distances between 5 metres to 20 metres approximately. The unit is calibrated to detect the lowest voltage it could encounter and will activate when further away from higher voltages, hence the variation in distance. The system is installed with an interlock that ensures it does not activate while the trailer is lowered or the truck is driving.

## **Recommendation 2 – Electrical insulation of tipper trailers:**

*“I also recommend, that with the aim of minimising contact incidents with overhead power lines by tipper truck trailers, I recommend that WorkSafe and Energy Safe Victoria invest in the evaluation of methods to electrically insulate the tipper trailer in the event of power line contact by affixing a dry non-conductive material, as per the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health’s recommendation. This could be informed by the technical specifications for electrical insulation of elevated work platforms, as was contained in AS1418.10.”*

ESV evaluated methods to electrically insulate the tipper trailer in the event of powerline contact by affixing a dry, non-conductive material. This was in accordance with a US recommendation from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the technical specifications for electrical insulation of elevated work platforms, as contained in AS1418.10.

It is ESV’s view that as the NIOSH recommendation is inappropriate and impracticable for tipper trailers as it relates to elevating roll-off container trucks.

Tipper trailers are regularly filled with materials that are often moist, abrasive and dirty, which cause substantial wear and tear to the surfaces of tipper trailers. This would result in extensive damage to any non-conductive material, rendering it ineffective.

Further, the integrity of electrical insulation used in elevated work platforms (as referred to in AS1418.10) is maintained by keeping the insulation clean and dry, and ensuring the platform is covered when not in use. This would not be practical for most tipper trucks, also rendering it ineffective.

**ESV offers the following information in relation to recommendations relating to the deaths of Dallas Anderson, Brian Baker and John Jones (COR 2006 1427, 2006 0101, 2006 1546).**

## **Recommendation 1 – Farm signage:**

*“With the aim of minimising risks associated with contacting overhead powerlines on farming and rural properties, I recommend that WorkSafe in consultation and collaboration with Energy Safe Victoria, Farmsafe Australia Inc, Powercor and other relevant electricity power suppliers, produce signage which alerts a visitor/contractor to the presence and risks of overhead powerlines on a given property.”*

ESV, in conjunction with WorkSafe Victoria, has designed and produced an aluminium warning sign (600mm X 800mm) that farmers can attach to property fences alerting truck drivers to be aware of overhead powerlines. The sign (see attachment) includes the words “danger” and “overhead powerlines” with an illustration of a tipper truck and a red “no” symbol over the top, to ensure the message can also be understood by the culturally and linguistically diverse.

## **Recommendation 2 – Roll-out program for farm signage:**

*“With the aim of minimising risks associated with contacting overhead powerlines on farming and rural properties, I recommend that WorkSafe in consultation and collaboration with Energy Safe Victoria, Farmsafe Australia Inc, Powercor and other relevant electricity power suppliers, undertake a feasibility study on how to best implement and roll-out a program for introducing the said signage including whether financial assistance can be provided or whether embodiment in legislation could be achieved to ensure the provision, construction and maintaining of said signage at all access gates on farming and rural properties where overhead powerlines run through them.”*

ESV and WorkSafe have moved to immediately make these new signs available to farmers across the state free-of-charge. The signs will be distributed at the regional shows and farm expos that are regularly attended by ESV and WorkSafe. Farmers will also be able to order the signs through the ESV website. ESV and WorkSafe will review demand for the signage after six months and amend distribution channels accordingly.

### **Recommendation 3 – Educational campaign on availability of signage**

*“With the aim of minimising risks associated with contacting overhead powerlines on farming and rural properties, I recommend that WorkSafe in consultation and collaboration with Energy Safe Victoria, Farmsafe Australia Inc, Powercor and other relevant electricity power suppliers, hold an educational campaign in farming and rural communities on the roll-out of the said warning signage.”*

ESV will be promoting the availability of the signs through our annual Look up and live regional advertising awareness campaign. In July 2015 – June 2016, this will include online, print and radio ads plus mobile billboards, and promotion through our partnership with AFL Victoria and its online and print publications around Victoria.

As the Coroner noted in her findings, the Look up and live campaign has been running across Victoria for more than 20 years, including television, cinema, radio, online and print ads, plus mobile billboards.

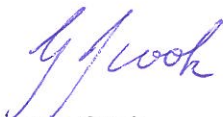
Between 2007 - 2009, ESV data shows there were 40 reported incidents of tipper trucks contacting powerlines. In 2010, ESV produced a television ad featuring a tipper truck contacting powerlines to specifically warn regional Victorians about the potential dangers of unloading in the vicinity of powerlines. The statistics show the number of incidents dropped to 14 in the three-year period from January 2012 – December 2014.

Further, in July 2008 – June 2009, tipper trucks accounted for 15 per cent of incidents involving contact with powerlines. By the 2014 calendar year this number had dropped to 8 per cent.

ESV is committed to the Look up and live campaign with the aim of ensuring that no Victorians die from contact with powerlines. We will continue to refresh our campaign messages and channels for delivery to ensure that Victorians do not become complacent when working in the vicinity of powerlines.

Should you have any further queries in regard to this matter, please contact Sharon Rainsbury at ESV on (03) 9203 9700.

Yours sincerely



Graeme Cook  
**ACTING DIRECTOR OF ENERGY SAFETY**



**JN 49342**

**AER Design**

**ESV Danger Signs**

Date: 25/6/2015

Scale: NTS

Page: No 1

## S1 - Farm Safety Signs

1.6 mm Aluminium panels  
with radius corners  
Pre drilled with fixing holes

Digitally printed Class 1 reflective Vinyl  
applied to face

Pack in sets of 10

250 each to 2 sites

Size: 600w x 800h x 1.6d

QTY: 500



600mm

800mm

1.6mm aluminium

Class 1 reflective Vinyl

 Digital print

### CLIENT APPROVAL

Name:

Signature:

Date: / /