



Category	Safety & Health
Division + BU	Eastern Infrastructure /Rail
Project	Epping to Thornleigh Third Track Alliance
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## Worker Struck by Excavator Bucket

### Background / What happened?

During the excavation of an Underline Crossing (ULX18), a Geotech Engineer entered the site to assess the ULX for ground stability prior to workers been authorised to enter the excavation. The work area was barricaded to exclude unauthorised access and the Geotech Engineer contacted the Engineer in Charge prior to entry. The excavator working in the exclusion zone was immobilised to allow the Engineer and the Geotech to assess the excavation.

To allow the excavator to recommence work, the Engineer requested the Geotech to move to a designated safe place to complete documentation. The Excavator Operator was asked to mix some stabilised sand from a stockpile nearby and to do so the bucket attachment needed to be changed. This meant the Operator needed to manoeuvre the excavator to the stored location of the alternative bucket attachment. At the same time the Geotech stood up and moved 2 or 3 steps towards the excavator which was slowly being slewed in a clockwise direction. The excavator bucket came into contact with the hard hat of the Geotech Engineer who subsequently fell to the ground and grazed his knee.

Location of excavator inside the exclusion zone



Location of Geotech Engineer before the incident

### What are the Significant Learnings?

The following table lists key learnings for Leighton Contractors:

OVERVIEW	DESCRIPTION	WHO IS THIS RELEVANT TO?
<p><b>Overview of Learning 1</b> Coordination of Multiple Worksite</p>	<p>The planning, controlling and management of worksites must be coordinated for both the individual worksite and overall work area. This multi-faceted approach will ensure that activities, plant movements, material storage, access routes, exclusion areas and any other interface is planned and included in Vehicle Movement Plans at a local and global level across the project.</p>	<p>Supervisor/ Engineer/ Planning Team</p>
<p><b>Overview of Learning 2</b> Exclusion Zones</p>	<p>Exclusions zones are to be planned and established to include all aspects of an activity and plant movements. This must include material and equipment storage and design envelopes of plant when manoeuvring or slewing within exclusion area etc. Where any item of plant must move outside of an exclusion zone than a dedicated 'essential worker/spotter' must travel with the item of plant and ensure a safe passage maintained.</p>	<p>Supervisor/ Engineer/ Operator/ Essential Worker</p>

<p><b>Overview of Learning 3</b> <i>Daily communication</i></p>	<p>Communication is fundamental to how we do business. If a daily means of communication, via pre-start or toolbox, is not completed properly or understood then critical information, hazards and controls will not be transferred to the workers who need the information. It is expected that a daily and meaningful consultation process is undertaken and recorded with all workers.</p>	<p>Supervisor</p>
<p><b>Overview of Learning 4</b> <i>Safety Culture</i></p>	<p>Adherence to the project safety requirements and procedures is fundamental to ensuring all workers behaviours are aligned to providing a safe work environment and strong safety and just culture. Tolerance to non-adherence to the project safety requirements will not be accepted and workers are empowered to stop works or another worker and report any concerns to any level of project management or supervision.</p>	<p>Workers</p>

## Who needs to know?

The learnings identified are considered relevant to the following groups or personnel:

- Supervisor;
- Engineer;
- Planning Team;
- Equipment Operator;
- Essential Worker;
- Worker.

## Key Phrases

- Work Around Mobile Plant

## How can I find out more? – Contact an Expert

For more information, please contact:

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