



# SAFETY ALERT

January 2026

## Hazardous Loose Objects

### What Happened?

An Ernslaw employee was driving north on a public road when an oncoming truck dislodged a 40 cm metal object. The object bounced along the road and struck the lower left bash plate of the Ute, causing minor damage.



### Findings:

- A **1 kg object at 100 km/h** carries **huge impact energy**—like dropping it from a **40-storey building**.
- It can **easily break through a windscreen**.
- It has the potential to **seriously injure or kill** the driver or front passenger.

### Recommendations:

- **Secure and inspect all loads** on Utes, trucks, and trailers, even small items can become dangerous projectiles at highway speeds
- **Slow down and increase following distance** when approaching oncoming trucks or rough road sections
- **Report road hazards or unsecured loads** immediately to reduce risk to other road users

### Life-Saving Driving Choices:

- **Slow down** drive to conditions
- **Take a break** every two hours
- **Plan your journey** to avoid rushing and driving while fatigued
- **Avoid the phone** it is illegal to hold and operate it for calls texts or apps
- **Drive defensively**, expect the unexpected and scan ahead for hazards