

# Investigation information release

Date: November 2022

## Teenagers injured in a vehicle rollover at a gravel quarry

**Incident date:** 29 October 2022

**Event:** Teenagers injured in a vehicle rollover at a gravel quarry

**Location:** Mills Gravel Quarry

### Overview

Three teenagers were injured when the all-terrain vehicle (ATV) they were travelling in rolled over at a quarry. One of the teenagers suffered serious internal injuries after being pinned beneath the ATV.

### The quarry

Mills Gravel Quarry is at Soldiers Settlement Road, Bective, about 25 km north-west of Tamworth, NSW. It is a hard rock quarry operated by Tamworth Regional Council (the mine operator). Excavated materials are crushed periodically by a contractor engaged by the mine operator. The mine operator draws from stockpiles of crushed material maintained on site as required.

The quarry is on land owned by a third party. The quarry is separated from neighbouring farmland by fencing. At the time of the incident, there were at least 2 openings in the fence between the farm and quarry that permitted access.

Figure 1 Quarry and surrounding farmland



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Figure 2 Open gate permitting access between the quarry and surrounding farmland



## The incident

Three teenagers in an ATV accessed the quarry during the afternoon of Saturday, 29 October 2022. It is believed that access to the quarry was gained through one of the open access points to the quarry. The ATV travelled up an embankment, which had a 19 percent grade. The ATV rolled over and at least one of the occupants became caught underneath the ATV.

Emergency services attended the scene. One of the occupants of the ATV is believed to have suffered serious internal injuries and was airlifted to John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle. The other occupants were transported to Tamworth Hospital suffering minor injuries.

Figure 3. ATV following rollover



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## The investigation

The Regulator has commenced an investigation to determine the cause and circumstances of the incident. The investigation will explore, among other things, the arrangements for access and security of the quarry and whether the arrangements presented any risks to health and safety. The mine operator, landowner and the contractor are co-operating with the investigation. A report will be published when the investigation is concluded.

## Further information

Please refer to the following guidance materials:

- Resources Regulator Guide: [Health and safety at quarries](#)

## About this information release

The Regulator has issued this information to draw attention to the occurrence of a serious incident in the mining industry. Further information may be published as it becomes available.

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