

ASP Safety Alert

Subject: Leveling rod failure on GMJ EWP

3 February 2025

Key Messages

EWPs should be operated consistent with the Safe Operating Procedure and OEMs instructions, including set-up positioning, stabilising, using appropriate dunnage, leveling and ensuring the EWP basket is not overloaded in accordance with the safe working limit (SWL).

What happened

In the process of stowing the basket of a GMJ EWP, it is suspected a leveling rod has failed resulting in two Ausgrid workers being ejected from the EWP basket. Both workers were wearing harnesses and were attached to the basket at the time of the incident.



Extent of impact

Both workers received non-life threatening injuries as a result of the incident and were taken to hospital for further assessment and treatment.

Immediate action taken to eliminate or control the risk:

Ausgrid's fleet management have identified an initial 28 GMJ EWPs to be temporarily removed from service as a precaution until further inspections have been completed. This was informed by advice provided by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), GJM.

A Health and Safety investigation has commenced into the incident and findings and lessons will be shared when available.

Until further advised, Ausgrid staff will not be performing any works from EWPs of this make. Alternative arrangements will need to be made where this may present an issue on Connections projects.

Important Note

ASPs are reminded of the importance of wearing the required harness and being correctly attached while working aloft in an EWP, consistent with safe work method statements.

ASP's utilising EWPs should ensure that pre-operational, routine, periodic and major inspections are carried out on EWP plant and equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.