

What happened?

- A fencing contractor erected a fence in a pipeline easement without permission
- One post was inserted directly above the pipeline to a depth of 500 mm
- The pipeline wasn't damaged

Findings and key learning points

- A pipeline operator was contacted by a landowner regarding drainage works
- On arrival at site, the operator's representative noted that a fence had been installed above the pipeline. This had not been authorised.
- The landowner had forgotten to inform the fencing contractor about the pipeline
- One post was directly above the pipeline and although the fencing contractor claimed that the posts were only driven-in to a shallow depth, it was found to be inserted to 500 mm
- The fence-post was adjacent to a pipeline marker post
- The operator explained to the contractor and the land-owner the serious nature of the incident, the potential hazard of striking a pipeline and the correct procedure to follow in future, including the need to contact LinesearchbeforeUdig (LSBUD)
- The post was removed

Recommendation

- Operators to reinforce the message to landowners that it is:
 - a) their responsibility to inform contractors and
 - b) that they need to contact the operator prior to any works near pipelines

