

# Safety alert

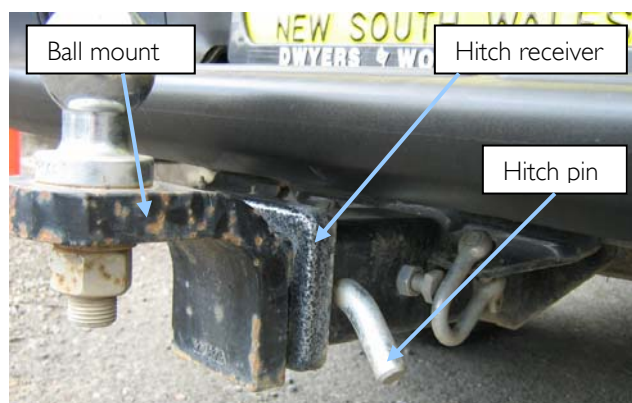
Separation of Tow Ball Mount from Hitch Receiver Bar  
Possible failure of hitch pin

OCTOBER 2006



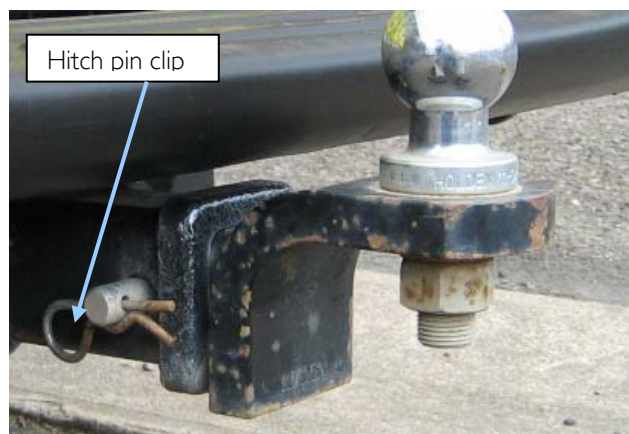
## Hitchpin failure risk

A significant risk has been identified on tow bars using a hitch receiver that requires an inspection of hitch pins to be completed before further operation and use. The ball mount may become dislodged from the hitch receiver if the hitch pin or hitch pin clip fails.



Hitch receiver, ball mount and hitch pin

Failure may occur due to damage to the hitch pin allowing shear and breakage of the pin.



Alternatively, the hitch pin may become dislodged if not properly secured with a hitch pin clip (also sometimes known as a pull-pin or secondary lock pin). The hitch pin clip should be secure and positively fixed as shown in the picture above.

Failure or dislodgement of the hitch pin while in transit will cause the trailer to become detached from the hitch receiver and swing on the safety chain, resulting in vehicle damage and danger to the public. The trailer could then become detached from the vehicle, resulting in potential serious injury to RTA staff and the public.

All hitch pins should be inspected to ensure that there has been no damage and that the hitch pin clip is securely fixed. The security of the hitch pin clip should be included in daily start up checks.

Trailer safety chains should be kept to a minimum safe length to minimise swinging when under emergency load.

A modification to the hitch pin is being investigated and will be advised soon.

All RTA Safety alerts are available on the [internet](#) or contact your local OHS facilitator for assistance.