

Removable Tow Bar Tongue failure

We were in the process of launching a Jet boat for an inspection of flushing operations in a Hydro lake. During retrieval of the empty boat trailer at the boat ramp, the removable towing tongue disengaged from the vehicle tow bar causing the trailer to fall to the ground. The trailer was still attached by the safety chain.

This tow bar arrangement is standard for many vehicles these days. The tow bar has a removable tongue held in by a pin and an R clip to hold the pin in place. This vehicle is regularly used off road and the tow bar end of the vehicle can often contact vegetation or scrape on the ground. This may be a factor in the R clip coming off and the main pin falling out.

Hydro Site

What did we learn?
The R clip isn't the most secure arrangement for locking the pin in place.
When fitting a trailer always check the integrity of the towing set up.
Always ensure the safety chain is securely attached.



Here are some improvement suggestions:

