



# SAFETY ALERT

## Shared Learnings



### INCIDENT TITLE:

Electric Vehicle Unexpectedly Braking

### TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT:

14 August 2019, 8.00am

### INCIDENT DETAIL :

A Hyundai Kona EV was on cruise control set at 50kph travelling through a 50kph residential area.

At the time of the incident, there were no other vehicles in sight in front of the vehicle. Suddenly, the car braked heavily without warning and with no obvious hazards to trigger the sensors.

The driver cannot recall any alert noises or unusual warning lights when the braking occurred.

The car behind, which was travelling quite closely, nearly rear-ended the Kona.

### LEARNINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS INCIDENT:

The Hyundai Kona EV vehicles have a semi-autonomous function in cruise control. The sensors pick up road lines and hazards, following distances, etc and automatically adjusts to compensate for the event – it keeps to the lane and will slow or brake if a hazard is detected that is either travelling slower ahead or moving close to the vehicle.

These vehicles are quite intuitive and there are a lot of features to understand. When the vehicles were collected from the dealership, a comprehensive 45 min handover was conducted. As the vehicles are destined to be pool vehicles, accessed by a large number of different drivers throughout the organisation, it is not possible to conduct a comprehensive handover with new users of these vehicles.

Key vehicle users and site vehicle managers who have these vehicles in their fleet are required to have a comprehensive handover, so they can, in turn, educate new drivers about the special functions. Please contact Pamela Barnes for further information.

The vehicles also need to be car washed after every long distance or non-sealed road trip, so the sensors are kept clean of dirt and build up, which can be a contributing factor to events of this nature.

### INITIAL RESPONSE AND INVESTIGATION OUTCOMES :

The driver accelerated to get the vehicle moving again and removed the cruise control operation, which restored the vehicle to manual operation.

The driver reported the incident when they returned to the office and the vehicle was removed from the pool service.

Hyundai NZ were contacted and had their local service provider, Gary Cockram Hyundai, take the lead on resolving the issue. Cockrams made contact very quickly and the vehicle was delivered to their business the day following the incident.

Extensive testing was performed on the vehicle and it was concluded that the event occurred due to a sensor fault. The sensors were re-set and the vehicle underwent rigorous testing over several days in different conditions to re-enact the fault. The fault has not since re-occurred, and Hyundai is confident the issue is resolved. The vehicle will be put back into the pool service.

### PHOTO:



**THE CORPORATE SAFETY AND HEALTH TEAM ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT THE ABOVE LEARNINGS. IF INTERESTED IN VIEWING THE FULL INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR THIS INCIDENT, IT CAN BE FOUND HERE:**