

Allison Waddington

Subject: FW: Tas Water**Importance:** High

From: Tim <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, 4 February 2021 8:15 AM
To: Tania. Rattray <tania.rattray@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Tas Water
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Good morning Tania, thank you for your time on the phone yesterday.

As we discussed I would very much appreciate the opportunity to speak at the committee enquiry. I have been working in the water and sewerage industry for over 20yrs providing consulting, site supervision/management services to all identities and still do so today to Tas Water. My understanding the reason the three identities was originally formed and then Tas Water was so Tasmania could have a better managed, and maintained sewage and water infrastructure, this would also provide better planning for the future.

From where I am sitting this has not happened, with a CEO who has been in the position for 7 years and I would argue that he has not reached any of the KPIs, we have failing infrastructure, boiled water alerts, raw sewage seeping into ground water because of failing infrastructure, we have water and sewerage treatment plants running above capacity and its only through good luck not good management that our capital city has not been put on water restrictions. It was only back in Nov 2020 where there was 2mtrs of supply left for Hobart before they ran out of water, this was because the treatment plant could not keep up with demand.

Because of the poor upper management over the last 7 years, they then decided to form an alliance with a massive multinational company (CDO) whose only interest is in returning profits to shareholders, not what is good for Tasmania.

There are Tas Water employees and contractors who are suffering from mental health concerns because of the way this is being managed, serious issues are being raised time and time again and are being ignored, I myself have raised serious safety issues on a number of occasions regarding CDO employees who are unqualified, inexperienced and are putting other people at risk, I raised a concern regarding a CDO site Supervisor who put contractors into a confined space without the correct isolations, the contractors then raised the issue on site and refused to carry out the work until the isolations were fixed by a Tas Water employee, we had documented evidence and nothing was done by the CDO, the supervisor was not reprimanded, given extra training nothing.

The CDO now does not pay contractors for anywhere between 45 and 60 days, no other public owned company in Tasmania takes that long, during Covid all Tasmanian owned public companies agreed to pay in 7 days to assist business with cash flow, but not Tas Water.

The whole CDO is just an unjustified duplication and history shows that these types of alliances never work the only winner is the company who walks away with massive profit and no risk to maintain assets in the future, because of the CDO we now have 2 CEO one for Tas Water one for the CDO I would suggest the combined wages of these two would be very near 1 million dollars, we now have 2 safety teams, we now have 2 procurement teams, THE CDO was contracted to provide experienced site supervisors, engineers, project managers and to complete projects at a high standard, on time and on budget, I know for a fact that budgets are escalated, any issues are carried by the local contractor not the CDO and for the projects we/myself have been involved in the quality is extremely poor as the CDO have provided inexperienced project managers and site supervisors who do not like being told there are quality and safety issues. I have documented evidence of all this and it is being totally ignored.

AS I have talked to you several times, I am not a disgruntled contractor as I am continuing to perform work for Tas Water, this is about Tasmania and what is good for Tasmania and this business model is not good for us, I am a proud and passionate Tasmanian and we are being ripped off, millions of dollars are walking out the door and it needs to stop we need a strong government to correct this and it needs to happen sooner rather than later. I will not let this rest until something changes and I hope I am provided the opportunity to express my concerns and I hope this committee is committed and strong enough to push for the change that is needed, this is for Tasmania.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to your reply.

Have a Great Day

Tim Blair Manager

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