

February 1, 2021.

LCSC/TwT 28
Tabled - 1/2/2021

Tim Slade of Pioneer, speaking to the Parliamentary Inquiry into TasWater

To introduce myself, briefly... My name is Tim Slade. I'm 44 years of age. I have lived at Pioneer for eleven years. I hold a Bachelor of Education from the University of Tasmania. I have written freelance 25 published articles about Tasmania's drinking water since 2013, with a focus on Pioneer's heavy-metal contaminated drinking water. I will continue to write these articles until this is all over, a time which will span at least one decade. I also have an interest in poetry. My work has been published in *The Weekend Australian* and other major journals. My debut collection of poems *The Walnut Tree*, has been accepted by a publisher of poetry. It is due for release in March this year. I live with several chronic health conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis and other auto-immune diseases. These have determined that I rely on a Disability Support Pension. It is for this reason that I have had the time to volunteer more than one-thousand hours over eight years for the people of Pioneer.

I thank the Legislative Council for approving this inquiry. Thank you for granting me this time to speak and to answer questions today...

The impetus for this parliamentary inquiry into TasWater comes primarily from the township of Pioneer. A petition for an inquiry was tabled in the parliament last year, brought by Ms Rattray.

I'm here today because this is a major health issue for you to consider. I refer you to the submission by Dr Alison Bleaney, a GP in the north-east, one who has stood by Pioneer for many years now. I might add that Dr Bleaney was awarded an Order of the British Empire for her bravery in the Falklands' war. At Pioneer we are eternally grateful to Dr Alison Bleaney.

My presentation today will relate predominantly to the Terms of Reference, point number 6: the delivery and timeliness of water services to Tasmanian communities But it may also touch upon Terms of Reference points numbers 3, 7 and 9. I welcome questions from you, and I have seven pages to read.

My goal is to communicate to Members the overwhelming attitude of neglect by TasWater, the owner-councils, the State government and the DHHS.

My conclusion will be that TasWater have failed Pioneer, who are customers of TasWater, and have have been customers since before the alert in 2012. TasWater breached agreement, ignoring foreseeable risk, misleading regulators, ignoring National Guidelines, obfuscating the DHHS, failing to act competently, openly and honestly, putting us at Pioneer at persistent and significant risk over years, notwithstanding historical and new documents and facts known to the CEO and Board of TasWater. Many of the major problems since 2012 have not been rectified.

I will also conclude that as per Terms of Reference number 7, the State government have failed to use their seat at the table and their new part-ownership rights at TasWater, at no time representing Pioneer, even

when in full knowledge of the facts of risk at Pioneer. The State government has never been sincere about the health problems related to drinking water at Pioneer.

I would first like to distribute among the Members a series of photographs of the lead-painted roofs at Pioneer... Each of these roofs remains as you see it in these photographs. Not one single roof at Pioneer has been repaired or replaced by TasWater.

Can each Member say today for the record, in a sentence or two, how they would describe these roofs in general, please? Thank you.

For the record, would Members please say if they would be willing to drink water on a daily basis from any of these roofs pictured here?

Can I please also ask Members today if they can please advise me if there is any mention of Pioneer in TasWater's significant submission to this inquiry?

At Pioneer one-third of the town was ultimately deemed in 2019 to have heavy-metal contaminated drinking water set-ups. I repeat, one-third of Pioneer, at least twelve homes, with unsafe drinking water systems installed by TasWater after eight years. Several homes are still receiving bottled water, eight years and two months since the alert in November, 2012.

I ask Members, if this were happening in Launceston or Hobart, would you be satisfied? What actions would you take? What sanctions would have been applied to the Board and the CEO of TasWater? What would have been the response of the Premier? If this was happening in Hobart or Launceston, how quickly would the DHHS have intervened to ensure the safety of residents?

1. The first and most important document I would like to present to you, and to table, is the letter from the Tasmanian Director of Public Health, Dr Veitch, sent to CEO Brewster, December 7, 2018, SIX YEARS after the alert at Pioneer in 2012, to outline THREE failures perpetrated by TasWater against the residents of Pioneer –
 - a. Dr Veitch's letter clearly quotes documents to OTTER, Office of the Tasmanian Economic Regulator, wherein TasWater promise to replace roofs at Pioneer if they are unsafe for the collection of drinking water. TasWater write to OTTER: '...the provision of assistance to ensure roofing and guttering were adequate to supply water to the tank' and '...repair [of] roof, gutters and downpipes etc to a standard suitable for collecting rainwater for drinking'.
 - b. Dr Veitch also writes that the Department of Justice also noted that this work should have been carried out by TasWater.

2. TasWater have lied about this promise, even as recently as my last communication to them. TasWater state that they never made this promise to Pioneer. The result of this has been to have misled and confused members of government, the DHHS, the media, and the residents of Pioneer. This has been a concerted and fundamental misrepresentation by the CEO and the Board of TasWater, from 2012, and continuing until this day, notwithstanding this letter from Dr Veitch of December 7, 2018, quoting documents which prove that this was indeed the promise by TasWater to Pioneer and to OTTER and the Department of Justice. This misinformation is disseminated to new employees at TasWater, and the turnover of employees dealing with the Pioneer projects over eight years has been extreme. In my most recent conversation with the new project manager for Pioneer, she stated without equivocation that TasWater don't have to fix or replace roofs, that TasWater never made this promise to Pioneer. I politely told her that she has been misinformed. Clearly, as Dr Veitch's letter of overrule to CEO Brewster underlines, TasWater most certainly made this promise to Pioneer and TasWater's regulators, including OTTER and the Department of Justice.

So the question for you, Members, is this... Who is the person who constantly misinforms new employees at TasWater? Keeping in mind that this misinformed view will inform every interaction those employees have with the people of Pioneer after eight years. So who is responsible for this misinformation which has been perpetuated in-house and abroad, in the public realm and in the media? I put it to you that the answer to this question lies with the CEO of TasWater, Mr Brewster, and his Board. Who else can it be?

- a. Dr Veitch's letter to CEO Brewster also identifies failure to acknowledge 'future foreseeable risk' in relation to lead-painted roofs at Pioneer and the collection of rainwater for drinking.
- b. Dr Veitch also quoted a breach of agreement with the town of Pioneer.
- c. Dr Veitch also identifies TasWater's failure to apply *Guidance on use of rainwater tanks*, a national guideline document for the installation and use of rainwater tanks, created by the Australian Government Department of Health.

The document states: 'Do not collect rainwater from roofs painted with products containing high lead concentrations (for example, pre-1970s paint).' And even while TasWater ignored all guidelines, it took them five years to install thirty-five rainwater tanks at Pioneer. FIVE YEARS. In my own personal case, I waited a full 3 YEARS to have a rainwater tank installed. DOES THIS SOUND LIKE SMOOTH AND RESPONSIBLE PRACTICE TO YOU?

- d. So you can see, Members, that Pioneer was not some unfortunate or isolated accident. It was a designed process by TasWater of misinformation, failure to comply with regulations, failure to uphold agreements, obfuscation and cover-up, failure to analyse failures and to take responsibility, and a failure to manage its own Board and CEO to a standard whereby the DHHS can be 100% trusting, 100% of the time, that the truth is being told in the interests of the customers, in this case for the people of Pioneer.

- e. This letter of overrule from Dr Veitch occurred as a direct result of my written communications to the DHHS. This followed every Player over years refusing to contact the DHHS for Pioneer. This included refusals by the Premier, the ORG, LGAT, Dorset Council and others.

Dr Veitch and his department head, Mr Hunt and Mr Dalglish, said to me that they were unaware of the issue of lead-painted roofs, notwithstanding the program beginning six years earlier. I think that the evidence show that this is beyond belief. It is inconceivable that the DHHS did not know. And if indeed it is true that they did not know until advised by me in 2018, it must certainly be the case THEY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN. IT WAS THE DHHS' RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW.

- f. Dr Veitch ends his letter to CEO Brewster without volition or urgency, making no mention of sanction. Rather, Dr Veitch leaves it completely at the discretion of CEO Brewster when he writes: 'Please feel free to get in touch if you would like to discuss this in more detail with me and my Departmental colleagues.' WAS THIS APPROPRIATE? SURELY NOT. Consistent with this soft approach by the DHHS, CEO Brewster took five months to write to residents following Dr Veitch's letter, and a whole-town testing program, the first ever in seven years, did not begin until almost one full year after Dr Veitch's letter to CEO Brewster on December 7, 2018.

3. The second document of major importance is a letter from Premier Hodgman to me. Premier Hodgman, privy to communications from me over years, writes to me for the first time on 10 September, 2018, four days prior to the ASSENT of legislation for the new ownership model for TasWater in the Legislative Council. I'll repeat that for the Members. Four days prior to ASSENT of legislation for the new ownership model of TasWater in the LegCo. Premier Hodgman's letter is to advise that he cannot help Pioneer because the State government plays no part in TasWater operations or oversight.

It was common public knowledge, in the media everywhere, that the LegCo had publically stated they were to support the new legislation. Indeed the legislation had already been approved, and was simply awaiting ASSENT in the parliament.

Premier Hodgman was in full knowledge of this when he wrote to me four days before ASSENT, to state that his government will not help Pioneer.

Following the LegCo's decision, Premier Hodgman did not ever write to me again, and his government refused at all time to represent Pioneer to TasWater.

- a. Eight months after Premier Hodgman's letter and the ASSENT of this legislation, Minister Ferguson's letter to Tania Rattray, 23 May, 2019, where he refuses to assist Pioneer on

obsolete REASONS, namely that the State government plays no part IN TASWATER OPERATIONS. Minister Ferguson cites the obsolete letter from Premier Hodgman. This is contrary to the new ownership model whereby THE STATE GOVT WAS GRANTED a seat at the table of TasWater, where it may make representations. This has never occurred. It is inconceivable that Minister Ferguson did not know this. Minister Ferguson did know this, of course. The State government has never used their seat at the table of TasWater to seek help for Pioneer, notwithstanding years and years of documented evidence. Note that in Mr Ferguson's letter he makes no offer to assist via this method. This is politics at its most cynical and dangerous.

4. Moving on to further key documents... I table Doug Chipman's letter to me, 29 May, 2018, where he opposes the testing of tanks at Pioneer.
5. TasWater were aware from their own tests in 2014 that at least three roofs were lead-painted above guideline levels. I provide two letters of evidence proving this in my submission. Only a handful of roofs were tested at the time.

SO WE NOW KNOW THAT IF TasWater HAD HAVE TESTED ALL HOMES AS THEY OUGHT TO HAVE DONE, THEY WOULD HAVE FOUND MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF THE TOWN WITH HEAVY-METAL CONTAMINATED ROOF AND OR DRINKING WATER SET-UPS.

It was not until 2018 when the Ombudsman required TasWater's documents, that it became public knowledge that TasWater were in possession of this knowledge for at least four years, FROM 2014, yet did nothing to test water, nor to raise this issue with any of its regulators, NOR TO TEST ANY OTHER HOMES.

Repeated requests by lead-affected residents for historic paint test results were ignored over year, notwithstanding repeated written requests directly to CEO Brewster, and via the Ombudsman.

The documentary evidence is vast to show that attempts by residents to receive their historic paint test results were blocked repeatedly. Keep in mind that only a handful of residents were lucky enough to receive paint tests in the first place. The vast majority of the town never had their roofs tested for lead. This responsibility of TasWater was never carried out. TasWater withheld paint test results in 2014, and they continued to withhold paint test results as late as 2018 and 2019, even after repeated written requests, and intervention from the Ombudsman. TasWater does not do business in an open, honest and transparent manner. This is not opinion; this is fact.

6. Chairman Gumley has failed to respond to my 23-page submission of 29 November, 2019. My detailed submission was in reply to his dot-point minimal reply, where he failed to address the most important documented facts. In the following more than one year, Chairman Gumley and the Board have failed to address the key documented facts. The Board has not opened any inquiry into the action over years of CEO Brewster. It is not acceptable for Chairman Gumley to simply write that if I

have any further questions then I should write to the Ombudsman or Integrity Commission. It is Chairman Gumley's job to be awake to the evidence of maladministration.

7. Nobody at Pioneer wishes to fight in the courts, and as probably the poorest community in Tasmania, bar none, it is not an option open to them under normal circumstances, however one resident is receiving advice from the EDO, the only law practice in Tasmania who were willing to offer time to our community on a pro-bono basis. TasWater is of course aware of this. TasWater's house of private lawyers, the same lawyers who spent more than six months writing the original contracts in 2013, contracts which did NOT enshrine our rights in accordance to the promise to provide safe roofs for the catchment of drinking water – these same lawyers have been engaged by TasWater at every step over the past eight years, to protect the interests of the Board of TasWater, and against the interests of the residents of Pioneer, as is so clearly proven with the documents discussed and provided to you today.
8. I wish to bring a remarkable and distressing case to you... That of Mr Johnson who does not wish to proceed through the courts. On December 17, 2018, ten days after Dr Veitch wrote to overrule CEO Brewster on three counts, CEO Brewster wrote to Mr Johnson, refusing assistance to replace his lead-painted roof. Mr Johnson had refused a tank years earlier because of his obviously toxic roof and TasWater's refusal to repair or replace it. Since 2012, for seven years Mr Johnson carted water by hand from the Fire Station's rainwater tank. We now know that TasWater were aware in 2014 that Mr Johnson's roof was lead-painted.

So even after direct written advice from Dr Veitch to overrule the CEO's long-held position of neglect over years, even after this from this chief medical doctor in Tasmania, CEO Brewster, ten days later, wrote to Mr Johnson, to tell him that he would not be assisted by TasWater under any circumstance.

This is yet another of numerous documented examples, where the CEO of TasWater has not been 100% truthful, misled and ignored the advice of his professional peers and overseers.

9. In terms of the future for Pioneer, following the announcement in December 2019 that a mini-treatment plant will be built at Pioneer, TasWater has not written to residents to inform them of the timeline. We have not received any communication from TasWater for near an entire year. Is this acceptable, in light of the history at Pioneer? My representations to TasWater, asking that a timeline, or at least a start date, be communicated to residents, fell on deaf ears, and we have received nothing from TasWater.
10. The final major issue I would like to bring to your attention, Members, is the Monthly Data Portal. Presently it is dysfunctional, notwithstanding my repeated e-mails to CEO Brewster and the Board to advise them of this.

The Portal does not provide any health guideline values with the data, therefore customers cannot see what the health guideline value should be for each item. This makes the data impossible to read and to interpret. It is beyond belief that TasWater refuse to provide the health guideline value alongside the water data. Furthermore, the portal is not available to find in any of the menus on the main page of TasWater's website. The portal is simply impossible to find, even if a customer is aware of the Portal in the first place, which most customers will not be aware. Furthermore, TasWater is failing to report any data about pesticides. Furthermore, TasWater are not reporting on a monthly basis as was the formal decision of the Board. Looking at the Portal yesterday, I see that the last update of data was November 30, two full months ago. Furthermore, there is no data at all for towns like Herrick, Pioneer's neighbor, where there is a mini-treatment plant. There is no data for Pioneer at all.

All of these major deficiencies of the Portal have been brought to the attention of CEO Brewster and the Board repeatedly, in writing and verbally, and indeed this formed part of my major reply submission to Chairman Gumley on November 29, 2018, which he has never acknowledged nor replied to.

The policy for this monthly Portal was created following three years of lobbying by me. The LegCo supported in-principle two years before TasWater agreed to the policy. Tas Labor and Tas Greens were supportive. The only arm of government who opposed were the State Liberals. It was not until a cost-analysis for the policy was forced by supporters, that the policy was ultimately adopted by TasWater.

But today the Portal is a shadow of what it was intended to be. TasWater are running it into the ground on purpose. The Board defiantly have refused to engage to correct the Portal.

11. There are countless other documents about Pioneer and other issues that I could cite today if we had unlimited time. Please make use of my full written submission to the inquiry. In addition to this I offer myself to you for appointments to discuss any and all questions you may have, or to provide further documentation. I would welcome your further interest.
12. In conclusion to what I have had to say to the Members today, most notably about Pioneer, I would like to say clearly to you that the Board of TasWater cannot be considered to be indispensable.

They are the opposite of this: THE DOCUMENTS SHOW A LONG-HELD PATTERN OF NEGLIGENCE AND DISHONESTY, ACTING IN FULL KNOWLEDGE OVER EIGHT YEARS, NOTWITHSTANDING REPRESENTATIONS TO THEM. THIS HAS LEFT THE PEOPLE AT PIONEER AT RISK OF HARM.

I ask Members to seek sanctions against the Board of TasWater. Tasmanians deserve an honest and competent Board. And we pay for one. Drinking water is a fundamental health issue.

The DHHS must be able to know that they can have 100% confidence in the honesty of the Board and the CEO 100% of the time.

THE DOCUMENTS I HAVE PRESENTED TODAY, AND IN MY SUBMISSION, SHOW WITHOUT A SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT TASMANIANS, GOVERNMENT AND THE OVERSEERS OF TASWATER CAN NO LONGER HAVE 100% CONFIDENCE.

AS SUCH, I ASK THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO INVITE THE DHHS TO WRITE A LETTER OF NO-CONFIDENCE IN THE BOARD OF TASWATER.

If the DHHS will not do this, then the Legislative Council should write this letter of no-confidence themselves, using the evidence provided to you.

The experience of Pioneer's residents must be acknowledged. The historical facts must not be ignored. This must never happen again. And Pioneer needs safe drinking water now.

If TasWater will not take responsibility for their own actions, then it is the role of this parliamentary inquiry to direct this change for them and for all Tasmanians. TasWater have been granted sufficient time.

Thank you for listening to me for this inquiry into TasWater.

I welcome questions from you...

TERMS OF REFERENCE

To inquire into and report upon the operations of TasWater with particular reference to:—

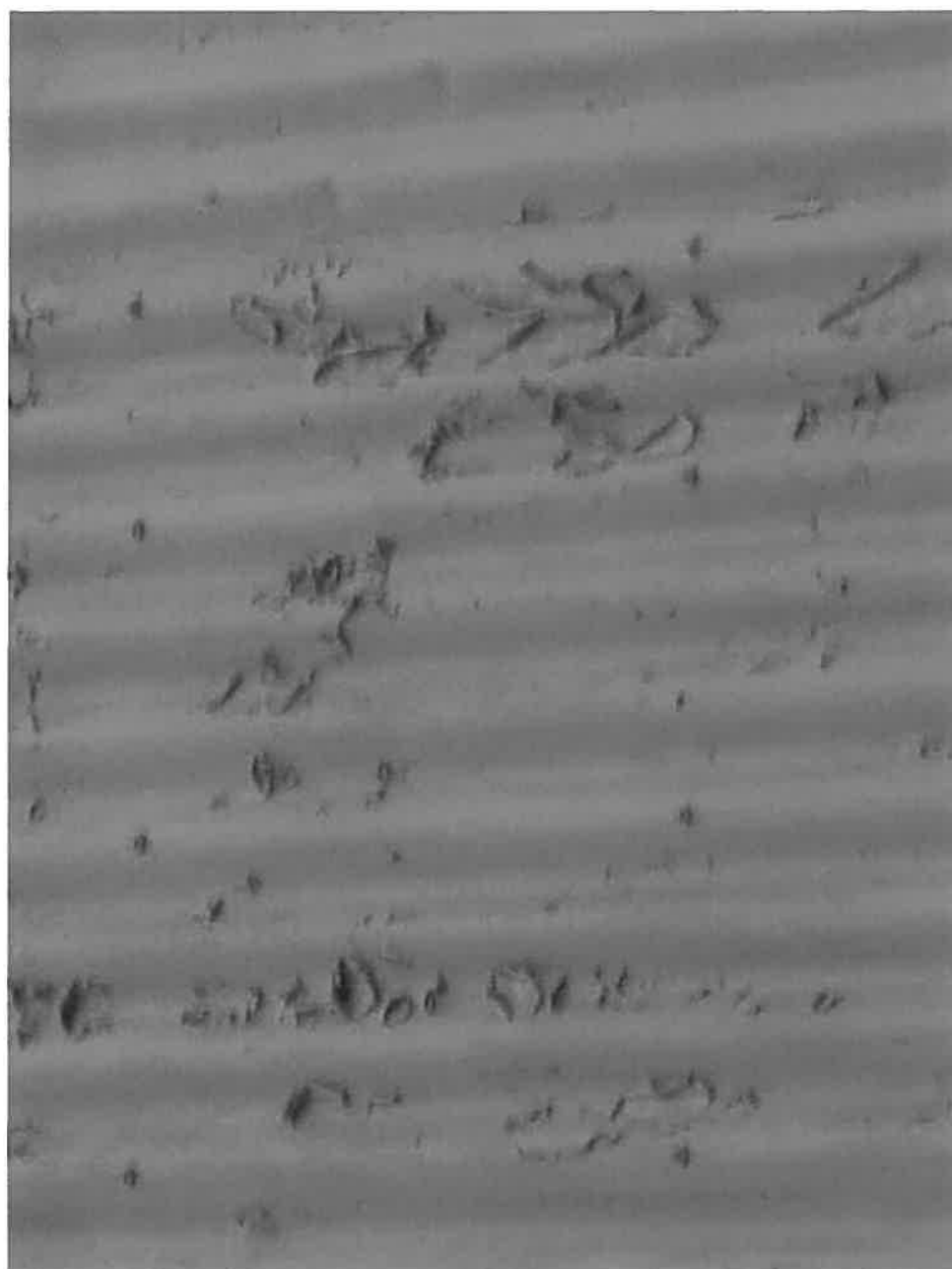
- (1) The impact of compliance with regulated bodies;
- (2) operations in regard to the impact on business required to comply with Trade Waste regulations;
- (3) the opportunity for re-use water expansion for irrigation;
- (4) the management of sewage treatment including the disposal of the treated waste biosolids;
- (5) the effect of TasWater's dividend policy on Local Government revenue;
- (6) the delivery and timeliness of water services to Tasmanian communities;
- (7) the effectiveness of business operations since the State Government became a shareholder in early 2019;
- (8) the impact of COVID-19 on business operations; and
- (9) any other matters incidental thereto.

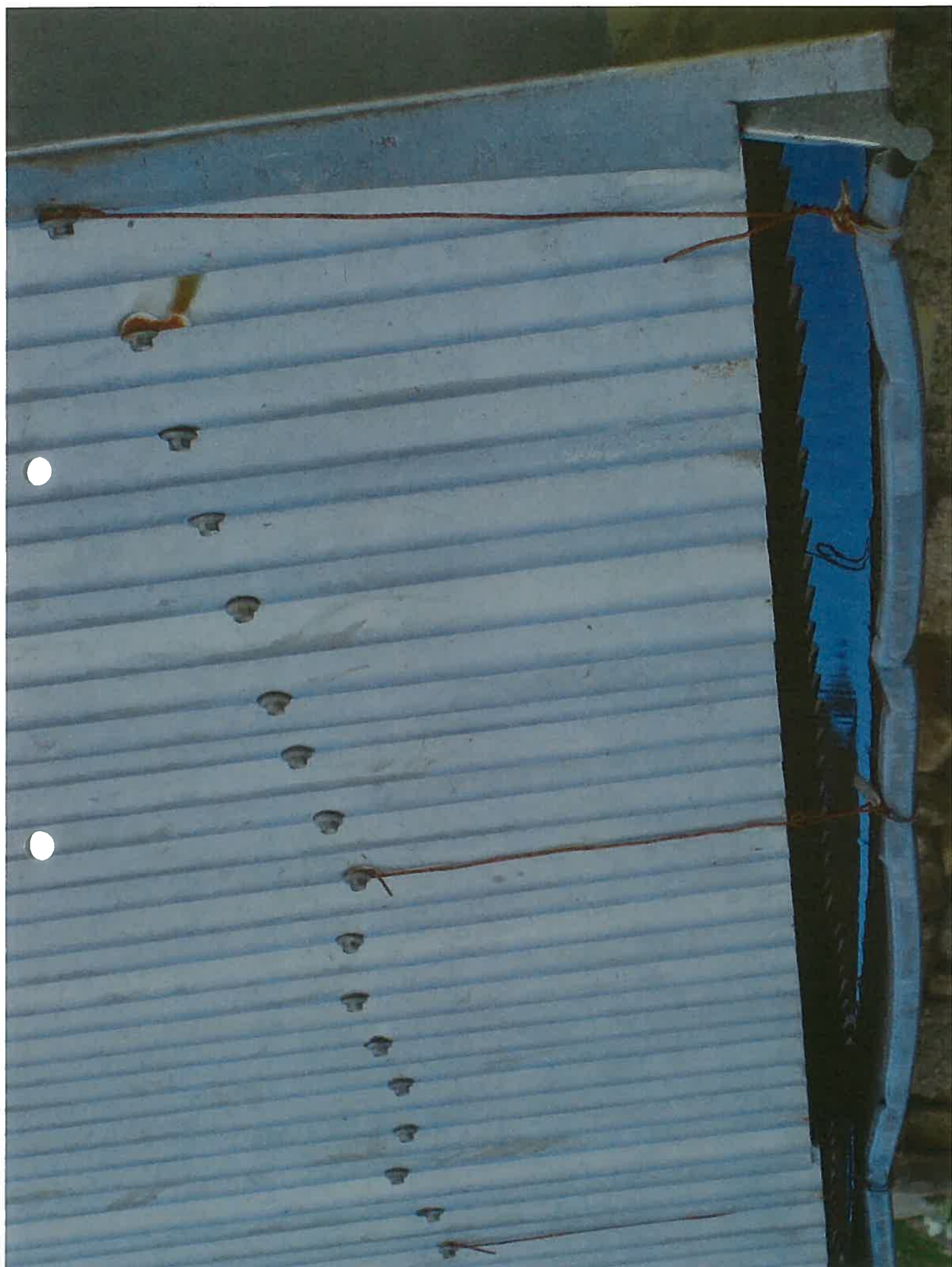
And that – Mr Armstrong; Mr Dean; Ms Lovell; and The Mover be of the Committee. D.T.
PEARCE Clerk of the Legislative Council

LCSC/TWT 28 ②
Tabled- 1/2/2021





























LCSC/TWT 28
Tabled-1/2/2021

Tim Slade <cricketgalah@gmail.com>

Letter from the Premier, Hon Will Hodgman MP

2 messages

The Premier (DPaC) <premier@dpac.tas.gov.au>
To: "cricketgalah@gmail.com" <cricketgalah@gmail.com>

10 September 2018 at 13:50

Dear Mr Slade

Thank you for your recent emails to various Ministers voicing your concerns about water quality at Pioneer and asking that the Government directs TasWater respond to you. I appreciate your interest in this matter.

The Tasmanian Government welcomes TasWater's recent announcement that all boil water alerts have been lifted. We will always work constructively with TasWater to ensure that Tasmanian residents have the best water quality available.

As the former Minister for Planning and Local Government, the Hon. Peter Gutwein MP, has indicated in previous correspondence, TasWater is the authority responsible for dealing with the matters you have raised. As noted by Minister Gutwein, the Government cannot involve itself in TasWater's operations and is not able to compel it to provide you with a response.

If you have a public health concern, you are welcome to report this to the Public Health hotline on 1800 671 738.

I am happy to hear from you regarding any new matters you wish to raise but neither myself nor any other Government Minister will be responding to further correspondence from you on this issue.

Yours sincerely

Hon Will Hodgman MP

Premier

Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events

Minister for Parks

Minister for Heritage

Department of Health and Human Services

GPO Box 125, HOBART TAS 7001 Australia

Ph: 1300 135 513

Web: www.dhhs.tas.gov.au



Contact: Paul Hunt
Phone: (03) 6166 0698
Email: paul.j.hunt@health.tas.gov.au
File: PPH01724

Mr Mike Brewster
CEO
TasWater
GPO Box 1393
HOBART Tas. 7001

Dear Mr. Brewster,

Subject: Pioneer – Rainwater Tanks / Service Replacement

The Department of Health has received correspondence and telephone calls from Mr Tim Slade about the service replacement at Pioneer. Some of the correspondence has been sent to or shared with TasWater, the Ombudsman, and members of parliament, including the Premier. The matter was also raised at the Legislative Council Government Business Scrutiny Committee on 4 December 2018 and in Federal Parliament by Mr Ross Hart MP on 5 December 2018.

Mr Slade has raised several issues. What is of concern to me is the condition of the roof catchments used to harvest drinking water at certain properties in Pioneer.

I have attached a copy of recent correspondence from the Department to Tim Slade. In this we note that roofs in poor condition and/or painted with older lead-based paints are inappropriate for collecting rainwater for drinking.

The condition of roofing material and related plumbing fixtures used to collect rainwater for consumption is generally a matter for the householder to manage, but in the case of service replacement for Pioneer, the responsibility is broader.

TasWater's submission in June 2017 to the Office of the Tasmanian Economic Regulator (OTTER) for the service replacement of Pioneer and Mountain River explicitly stated (at page 4) that the service replacement option would involve 'the provision of assistance to ensure roofing and guttering were adequate to supply water to the tank'. The submission also cited earlier discussions and agreement (then with Ben Lomond Water) that service replacement would involve 'repair [of] roof, gutters and downpipes etc to a standard suitable for collecting rainwater for drinking' (page 6).

I am concerned that this assistance appears not to have been provided. Departmental officers have discussed this matter with OTTER, who have suggested that this is a contractual matter between TasWater and the Pioneer residents.

Departmental officers have also discussed the matter of plumbing compliance with the Department of Justice, who have indicated that the condition of the roofs should have been identified as part of the scope

of works, with remedial works done to ensure that rainwater collection for drinking was compliant with contemporary standards.

I understand that TasWater has done some tank water sampling, and has offered to do more. While this provides evidence of the current quality of the water in the tanks, it does not address foreseeable future risk from high lead content roof paint.

The national guidance document addresses both short and longer term health risks from using rainwater tanks (*Guidance on use of rainwater tanks*, Australian Government Department of Health and the Environmental Health Standing Committee;

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/ohp-enhealth-rain-tank-cnt.htm>). This guidance addresses catchment quality, notably at page 16 where it states 'Do not collect rainwater from roofs painted with products containing high lead concentrations (for example, pre-1970s paint).'

I believe that completion of the undertaking as expressed in the original submission to OTTER is necessary and would provide a safe drinking water supply to Pioneer residents, subject to residents following the usual advice about untreated drinking water and maintenance of tanks and related infrastructure.

I would be grateful if you could advise me how TasWater will address this issue.

Please feel free to get in touch if you would like to discuss this in more detail with me and my Departmental colleagues.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Mark Veitch
Director of Public Health

7 December 2018

Minister for Health
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Minister for Science and Technology
Leader of the House

Level 5, 4 Salamanca Place, Hobart
Public Buildings, 53 St John Street, Launceston
GPO Box 123, HOBART TAS 7001
Phone: (03) 6165 7701; Email: Michael.Ferguson@dpac.tas.gov.au

Our Ref: MIN19/12563



23 MAY 2019

Hon Tania Rattray MLC
Independent Member for McIntyre
16 King Street
SCOTTSDALE TAS 7260

Dear Ms Rattray *Tania*

Thank you for your email of 15 May 2019 seeking a response to correspondence previously addressed to Dr Veitch and Mr Hunt; on behalf of Mr Tim Slade, regarding Pioneer Water Quality.

I have attached a copy of a letter sent from the Premier, in response to previous communications from Mr Slade, addressing the issues raised in relation to this matter.

Should you have any further constituent inquiries relating to the Health portfolio please address correspondence to me in order for my office to ensure responses are actioned in a timely manner.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Michael Ferguson MP
Minister for Health

Encl. Premier's response to Mr Tim Slade

Mr BREWSTER - No. We tested all of the customers who asked for a test. That is what we offered to do and we provided the results of those tests. The key issue is and has been microbiological elements, *E. coli* in effect, in the tanks. We tested for that and at the request of those customers who wanted it, we also tested for lead on the roofs.

Mr WILLIE - Given the town's water supply was contaminated and it was TasWater's solution to supply the tanks, don't you think you have a duty of care to ensure the tanks fitted are producing potable water? You would need to test all 42 properties.

Mr BREWSTER - No. The solution we provided was to put in tanks, as you rightly say, and to ensure the water coming out of those tanks is safe. We didn't have to, but we offered to undertake those tests to the extent that if there is lead in the water above the Australian, we would replace that roof. This was a choice for customers. We sent it out and offered it to them. It was up to them whether they wanted the tests and that included the test of lead in the roof, the test for *E. coli* et cetera. That option is still available.

Mr WILLIE - Do you think that is appropriate, when TasWater fitted the tanks and is ultimately responsible for the new water supply, that you have only offered to undertake testing?

Mr BREWSTER - Yes. We provided the tanks. We provided the associated infrastructure and we are testing the water for those who want it to ensure that safe. Tanks are all around the state. It is not a new concept. We have given everyone brand new tanks and we have offered the testing. In addition, we have also provided a separate irrigation supply to those customers. Until a health issue is demonstrated, which we have not seen, and as long we are offering the service, which we are, I don't know where we end here, if we keep going.

Mr VALENTINE - With the Herrick, they put in a mini-system. Is that not an option for Pioneer, to make sure they can get potable water at the tap?

Mr BREWSTER - It is always an option, Rob. We could go back. This was all a timing issue. We were well advanced with Pioneer at the time we made the announcement about the 24 towns. A solution was pretty much there. If we were to go back, we would also have to ensure the customers want it. It is okay to say we will provide the water but, once they are off serviced land, they have to decide whether they want to pay for reticulated water to come back in. We would have to go back to the community. We would need to know the costs from our perspective and we would need to be convinced that is what the community ultimately wants. It

Dec 4, 2018.
GEE.

ignores negligent installation
to lead-painted roofs
8 of 9

CHAIR - You are maintaining water quality where customers request it.

Mr BREWSTER - We do not have an obligation to because they are not on serviced land but we have offered it.

Mr VALENTINE - They are not on what?

Mr BREWSTER - They are not on serviced land. When you take a tank, part of taking a tank is that you are no longer a customer of TasWater in terms of drinking water. That is the deal. We didn't have to do this but we chose to do it to try to assist customers and give them confidence in the tanks. Ultimately, they are responsible for their roofs and for the maintenance of the tanks. We installed new equipment and if we found there was a demonstrable health issue, we would deal with it. There is no doubt of that.

CHAIR - On water quality, Josh.

Mr WILLIE - It is linked to these questions. Mr Valentine is expressing frustration and that frustration has resulted in our committee being consulted on these issues.

One of the other issues was a real-time data monitoring of water quality across the state. Do you have an indication of when that will be implemented and a time line?

Mr BREWSTER - That was presented to the board last week, wasn't it, Stephen?

Dr GUMLEY - Yes, it was last Wednesday. We had a full presentation and I was impressed with what I saw. There are just a few software tweaks now and we will be putting it live before much longer.

Mr BREWSTER - We will be putting it live by the end of the year, which was our commitment.

(7)

Tania. Rattray

From: Tania. Rattray
Sent: Wednesday, 24 April 2019 1:09 PM
To: Public Health (Health)
Subject: Attn Dr Veitch & Mr Hunt re Pioneer Water Quality

Dear Dr Veitch and Mr Hunt,

I am making this contact following a number of email exchanges and a phone conversation with Mr Tim Slade who is a McIntyre constituent and spokesperson for the Pioneer community who has been involved and has a full understanding of the rain water tank contamination issue.

Mr Slade has advised me that aside of the significant length of time that the Pioneer community have been waiting to have this matter resolved that TasWater at the time of authorising the tank installations did not meet the National Guideline Document for the Use and Installation of Rainwater Tanks.

I am aware that there has been numerous requests from Mr Slade for TasWater, the Government and other stakeholders to have this issue examined and addressed to the satisfaction of those residents directly affected. I have in the past made contact with the Owners Representative Group Chairperson who at the time was Mayor David Downie, and regrettably this issue didn't receive the attention that I had expected given that Local Government are the owners and ultimately set the policy direction for TasWater.

With the significant concerns directly relating to the health of Pioneer residents I would appreciate your view and any suggested direction that should occur to address this important issue.

I look forward to your prompt response and would discuss this matter in more detail should that be necessary to resolve the matter.

Yours sincerely, Tania Rattray MLC



Hon. Tania Rattray MLC
Independent Member for McIntyre

T: 03 6350 5000 | M: 0427 523 412
E: tania.rattray@parliament.tas.gov.au
16 King St | Scottsdale Tas 7260

63542200

15/3/19 - Follow up email
+ cc Minister Ferguson.

14-17
101-107.

8



Tim Slade <cricketgalah@gmail.com>

New high lead (Pb) result in Pioneer rainwater tank, and Statewide monthly data reporting

Doug Chipman <doug.chipman@bigpond.com>

29 May 2018 at 10:50

To: Tim Slade <cricketgalah@gmail.com>

Cc: Greg Howard <mayorhoward@dorset.tas.gov.au>, Mike Brewster <michael.brewster@taswater.com.au>

Dear Tim,

Why should all tanks at Pioneer tested by Taswater when quite a few were never even installed by Taswater? I am also aware that a number of Pioneer residents don't want anything to do with Taswater.

Regards,

Doug Chipman
0409704835

[Quoted text hidden]

SOURCE: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-15/taswater-executives-sign-documents-to-back-claims-in-gutwein-row/8356916>

STATUTORY DECLARATION, MILES LAWRENCE HAMPTON (March 15, 2017)

Of [address censored] in Tasmania, Non Executive Director

Do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

1. I am the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Corporation Pty ACN 162 220 653 ("TasWater"),

2. In a meeting with Mr Peter Gutwein ("the Treasurer"), when asked by me to provide support to address drinking water challenges in a number of small Tasmanian towns, the Treasurer advised that the government was not prepared to provide funding support and that the Treasurer considered the provision of water tanks an acceptable solution for some smaller towns.

3. In a subsequent meeting I advised the Treasurer that based on our learnings in regard to Pioneer and Mountain River, tanks were not considered to be an equitable and viable solution and that TasWater would look to find ways to provide the remaining towns with compliant reticulated drinking water. The Treasurer noted this advice but no support was offered to address the issue,

4. At no time in my meetings with the Treasurer, has he raised the issue of a water crisis or advised that Taswater's ten year plan needs to be accelerated. Our discussions were based on a proposal developed by TasWater which set out how we might address the key water and sewerage challenges facing us in a ten year timeframe.

I make this solemn declaration under the Oaths Act 2001 (Tas)

Signature of Mr Brewster....

March 15, 2017.

Before: Benedict Bartl, Solicitor.

Fact (a)

The testing of roofs for lead-paint is a duty of care which TasWater obviously must be responsible. The decision for roof testing in relation to probable dangers to human health cannot under any circumstance be deferred to a customer. This is TasWater's duty of care. All roofs should have been tested for lead (Pb) paint by TasWater.

I know that in my personal case, I was never asked directly if I wanted my roof tested for lead. From my discussions around town, I realise that this is the case for most of the town too.

4.

In your letter of June 8, 2018, you write: 'We note this [rainwater tank] testing was presented by TasWater as part of the overall replacement program and not at the direction of the Ombudsman as you have suggested. Testing was conducted for those properties owners who accepted this offer'.

Fact (a)

Five years and eight months after the alert, TasWater offered residents a free one-off test for rainwater tanks. This is an unreasonable span of years to wait for such a test, especially given the haphazard or non-existent testing of roofs by TasWater in preceeding years. To apologise for a delay, as you do in your letter, is nothing more than an excuse for negligence.

Fact (b)

I provide here two letters from the Ombudsman, dated June 22, 2016 and August 29, 2016, where the Ombudsman wrote to TasWater requesting that such tests for lead and other contaminants be tested for in rainwater tanks at Pioneer. Reading the Ombudsman's letters, one can see that a further delay of more than one year and six months occurred before TasWater ultimately offered an invitation to residents for tests.

Fact (c)

TasWater bungled the invitation process in 2018. There was no mention of lead (Pb) testing in the invitation to residents. The only mention was of microbiology (bacteria). I wrote to you as CEO to request a rewriting and reissuing of your invitation. You seemed unaware of what was to be tested

TIM SLADE to PETER GUTWEIN.

19

Tim Slade <cricketgalah@gmail.com>
To: "The Premier (DPaC)" <premier@dpac.tas.gov.au>

28 August 2018 at 11:48

To Premier (& Mr Choraziak),

Please acknowledge my e-mail of August 24, as it contains new information.

Can you advise when you expect to reply and act.

An appointment?

Sincerely,

Tim Slade
Pioneer, Tasmania.

Tim Slade's published articles:
<http://tasmaniantimes.com/index.php/category-article/239>
8 Moore Street
Pioneer TAS 7264
Tel: (03) 6354 2200
E-mail: cricketgalah@gmail.com

[Quoted text hidden]

Tim Slade <cricketgalah@gmail.com>
To: "Gutwein, Peter (DPaC)" <peter.gutwein@dpac.tas.gov.au>

31 August 2018 at 16:35

To Mr Peter Gutwein, Minister for Local Government.

Please acknowledge receipt of my e-mails of July 18 and August 14.

Please respond to my important e-mails regarding Pioneer's drinking water, etc.

Tim Slade
Pioneer, Tasmania.

Tim Slade's published articles:
<http://tasmaniantimes.com/index.php/category-article/239>
8 Moore Street
Pioneer TAS 7264
Tel: (03) 6354 2200
E-mail: cricketgalah@gmail.com

[Quoted text hidden]

Tim Slade <cricketgalah@gmail.com>
To: "Gutwein, Peter (DPaC)" <peter.gutwein@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Cc: "The Premier (DPaC)" <premier@dpac.tas.gov.au>

6 September 2018 at 10:28

To Mr Peter Gutwein, Minister for Local Government.

Once again, I ask you to please acknowledge receipt of my e-mails of July 18 and August 14.

Please respond to my important e-mails regarding Pioneer's drinking water, etc.

Tim Slade.

Tim Slade's published articles:

<http://tasmaniantimes.com/index.php/category-article/239>

8 Moore Street

Pioneer TAS 7264

Tel: (03) 6354 2200

E-mail: cricketgalah@gmail.com

[Quoted text hidden]

From: Tim Slade <cricketgalah@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 August 2018 11:21 AM
To: The Premier (DPaC) <premier@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Saved to CM: Re: Pioneer ~ Tim Slade, Aug 14 ~ TasWater ~ Failure to respond...

[Quoted text hidden]

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER

The information in this transmission may be confidential and/or protected by legal professional privilege, and is intended only for the person or persons to whom it is addressed. If you are not such a person, you are warned that any disclosure, copying or dissemination of the information is unauthorised. If you have received the transmission in error, please immediately contact this office by telephone, fax or email, to inform us of the error and to enable arrangements to be made for the destruction of the transmission, or its return at our cost. No liability is accepted for any unauthorised use of the information contained in this transmission.

Tim Slade <cricketgalah@gmail.com>
To: "The Premier (DPaC)" <premier@dpac.tas.gov.au>

24 August 2018 at 13:00

To Premier Hodgman,

I acknowledge your e-mail of August 22, 2018.

It is now thirty-eight days with no acknowledgement and no reply from TasWater's CEO or Chairman to acknowledge my important e-mail of July 17, 2018, and my subsequent e-mail of August 14, 2018.

Thus I have no confirmation that the Board has been forwarded my e-mails, as requested directly by me in my e-mails.

Mr Downie, ORG, has also failed to acknowledge or reply to these e-mails.

Minister Gutwein likewise has failed to acknowledge or reply to these e-mails.

Minister Ferguson today belatedly acknowledged my e-mails.

Mayor Howard has failed to write to your office despite a promise at the Pioneer meeting of July 18 that he would do so. Mayor Howard has also failed to contact any of the three residents with confirmed lead-painted roofs, despite promising to do so at this Pioneer meeting.

The people of Pioneer are not being represented, with three confirmed cases of lead-painted roofs for the collection of drinking water, with likely additional cases.

Once again I request that the Premier arrange an appointment with me as a matter of urgency.

Sincerely,

Tim Slade
Pioneer, Tasmania.

Tim Slade's published articles:
<http://tasmaniantimes.com/index.php/category-article/239>
8 Moore Street