

From: Alan Birchmore a.birchmore@bigpond.com
Subject: Re: The Mud, TEMT and The 'Facts'
Date: 23 January 2021 at 11:15 am
To: Jim Collier jimcollier23@gmail.com

Just a comment on the biosolids Jim. In 1986 Foster assessed sediment accretion in the upper reaches as 36,000m³. I believe it is now around 100,000m³. What Taswater discharge is not all water. Population growth has been considerable and so the volume of discharge. All the best with the hearing. Alan

Mr Birchmore advises sediment in the upper reaches of the Tamar Estuary have nearly tripled since Professor Fosters 1986 report attributing TasWater biosolids as a contributor to this increase!

Dr IAN KIDD'S COMMENTS ON TASWATER SEWAGE DISCHARGE INTO THE KANAMALUKA/TAMAR ESTUARY

My comments regarding sewage treatment were forwarded to TEMT some years ago.

As with any problem solving scenario, it is essential to understand what the problem is, differentiate or isolate the root cause of the problem from the symptoms. The problem will not be solved by treating symptoms; the root cause must be isolated and dealt with.

The sewage problem in Launceston is that we have sewage of various degrees of treatment sloshing around in the upper estuary. Correct me if I'm wrong but seven plants discharge into the estuary. (Legana, Newnham, Ti Tree Bend, Riverside, Hobbler's Bridge, Blackstone, Queechey??) The combined sewerage system makes things worse during rain events.

Combined sewerage systems are common around the globe and most work effectively. Why not Launceston? Very few if any discharge into the top of an estuary and therein lies the root cause of our problem. Unless all plants discharge pure water only and treat everything then we will always have a problem.

How much of Launceston's sewage presently flows past Rosevears? Deviot? The fish farm at Long Reach? The answer is it flows past each of those places at exactly the same rate as it is discharged in Launceston – it doesn't go anywhere else – it all eventually makes its way to Bass Strait – at the same rate as it is discharged. The sewage is not a problem at any of those localities because it is highly diluted by the large tidal volumes.

The next question is; how far does the flood tide flow per cycle? Let's say the tide flows for 6 hours at 0.5 m/s; so the distance travelled is 0.5x60x60x6 metres or 10.8 km, which is not very far!

So the solution (as a minimum) is to pump from all plants to somewhere beyond 10.8 km from Ti-tree Bend where sewage is sufficiently diluted not to be a problem. It cannot get back to Launceston. The root cause of the problem is removed and the problem is solved. The pumping could be via heavy duty poly-pipe following the thalweg (deepest part of the channel) of the estuary. Perhaps Martin could comment on feasibility etc.

The \$95 million project favoured by TasWater will not fix the problem, achieves a paltry 15% improvement in pathogens and is a complete waste of money. It acts on symptoms of the problem whilst ignoring the root cause.

Ian Kidd

DETECTIVES INVESTIGATING PHARMACY BURGLARIES

TASMANIA Police is continuing to investigate two burglaries at Launceston pharmacies. Three men broke into Youngtown Pharmacy on Monday night, stealing medicine and damaging the business. Less than half an hour later,

police believe the same men broke into Trevallyn Pharmacy, stealing more medicine and cash. A small black hatchback was seen at both stores on the night of the crimes. Anyone with information should contact police on 131 444.

TIMING FOR SEWERAGE UPGRADES NOT FINALISED

TASWATER has not confirmed when planned upgrades to Launceston's sewerage infrastructure will be completed. NRM North has already commenced work on improving catchment management, but delivery of sewerage infrastructure

upgrades is the responsibility of TasWater. A TasWater spokesperson said before final timing could be confirmed and works commence on the upgrades, rigorous design work would be undertaken and relevant approvals would be sought.

JOBS ADVERTISED FOR NEW TASMANIAN NBL TEAM

THE National Basketball League has advertised five senior positions for the new Tasmanian team, scheduled to enter the competition for the 2021-22 season. The jobs are chief executive officer, commercial manager, head of operations, membership and

community engagement manager and marketing coordinator. NBL executive chairman Larry Kestelman said they had been "inundated" with applications for the CEO position. A campaign asking Tasmanians to name the name will soon be announced.



The Launceston General Hospital

Hospital patient statistics released

PRESENTATIONS to Launceston General Hospital's emergency department deemed authentic emergencies rose sharply in 2018-19. There were 4890 presentations to the ED under this category that year compared to 4337 the year before.

There were 15,860 patients deemed as needing urgent treatment in the department in 2018-19 and 357 patients required resuscitation. Twenty-nine cases deemed as emergencies were seen in the recommended time and 68 per cent of urgent cases were seen in the recommended time.

In 2018-19, 45,604 people presented to the hospital's emergency department with 50 per cent of those spending three hours and 24 minutes on average within the department. There were 2801 urgent elective surgery procedures performed.



MOVING ON: Carol Bracken has resigned from the West Tamar Council, prompting a recount for her seat. Picture: Neil Richardson

Seat recount locked in

BY ROB INGLIS

THE resignation of a West Tamar councillor has sparked a hotly contested recount for her seat - and the Labor candidate for the Rosevears upper house election is among those hopeful of filling the vacancy.

Carol Bracken has served on the West Tamar Council for the past eight-and-a-half years. But she has made the decision to relocate with her family to the state's North-West, where she'll be taking up a full-time job with the Cradle Coast Authority.

The Tasmanian Electoral Commission will conduct

the recount on July 13. "I could stay in council, but I feel that if I'm living in a different region ... it's not fair to the West Tamar to have a councillor that's not really paying attention as much in their actual region," Ms Bracken said. "So having someone that's based locally will be much better for the community there."

"I feel like I've contributed and I've learnt a lot from the position that I'm ready to move on and do something else."

Ms Bracken has spent the past 10 years running a hazelnut farm at Glengarry, which she and her family

have recently sold. Jess Greene, Labor's candidate for the Legislative Council seat of Rosevears, came close to winning a seat on the West Tamar Council in 2018, but lost to Ms Bracken on preferences. Ms Greene, who received 353 first preference votes at the election two years ago and 4.01 per cent of the primary vote, has informed the TEC that she intends to contest the recount.

"I'm reasonably hopeful that I would be successful," she said of the recount. "I would be really honoured to serve my community on the West Tamar Council."

If she was to win Rosevears, for which an election will be held on August 1, Ms Greene said she would have to resign from the council.

Jim Collier, the coordinator for the Launceston Heritage Not Highrise group, is also vying for the seat.

He received 362 first preference votes in 2018 and 4.11 per cent of the primary vote.

"My own opinion is that [the seat] will more likely go to Jess Greene," Mr Collier said. "But ... you never know."

"I guess it will depend on how Carol Bracken's votes are redistributed."

A total of 22 candidates

contested the 2018 council election, with nine being elected councillors. That leaves 13 potential contenders for the vacant seat.

Political analyst Kevin Bonham said Ms Greene would be "a serious contender" for the recount, which is decided by the votes the person who resigned had at the point at which they were elected.

Tasmanian Electoral Commissioner Andrew Hawkey said he had formally written to all unsuccessful candidates last Friday but was not at liberty to say how many of those had agreed to contest the seat.

Speeding, red light allegation for officer

A **SUSPENDED** Tasmania Police officer facing a manslaughter charge was allegedly speeding when he went through a red light and collided with a vehicle, the Director of Public Prosecutions alleges. Aaron Tasman Bonner, 39, did not plead in the Launceston

manslaughter of Anthony Robert Campbell or to causing grievous bodily harm to Bernice Marie Campbell in Paterson St Launceston on January 6, 2020. Mr Bonner did not plead to a charge of causing the death by negligent driving of Mr Campbell and causing

nice Campbell. Anthony and Bernice Campbell were pedestrians at the time of the crash and were struck by a vehicle after a collision between two vehicles at the intersection of Paterson and St John Streets. The particulars of the alleged negligent driving

speed, driving through a red light, failing to keep a proper lookout, failing to avoid a collision and failing to drive with reasonable caution and care for other road users including pedestrians. Court documents say that the manslaughter charge alleges that as a result of omis-

negligence Mr Bonner failed in the use or management of a motor vehicle to take reasonable care to avoid danger to human life and thereby caused the death of Mr Campbell. It alleges that the same conduct caused grievous bodily harm to Ms Campbell.

appearance on the charges. Magistrate Ken Stanton bailed Mr Bonner to reappear for plea on September 10 at 9.45am. Tasmania Police said at the time that the officer was on his way to an urgent duty call out.

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Budget funds an 'economic opportunity' for Tamar River | The Examiner | Launceston, TAS



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FUTURE FUNDING: A Tamar River outflow from Ti Tree Bend Sewage Treatment Plant. Picture: Phillip Biggs

The Launceston Chamber of Commerce has welcomed funding allocations for sewerage works in Thursday's state budget as a chance to not only address an environmental issue but take up an "economic opportunity".

The budget papers show a \$180 million contribution would be provided to TasWater over the next four years to go towards its infrastructure program, as well as major projects including improvements to the Launceston combined sewerage and storm water system.

This would bring the total invested into sewerage and water infrastructure by the state to \$300 million over a 10 year period, with an initial contribution of \$20 million made in January, they state.

Speaking on Friday to a room of 200 at a [post-budget lunch event](#) in Launceston, Treasurer Peter Gutwein said there was a significant amount of investment that would occur in the region to fix up "what really is the jewel in the crown of this city" - the Tamar.

"TasWater in its 10-year plan has a further \$280 million costed into it to do the Launceston Integrated Sewerage Plan," Mr Gutwein said.

Neil Grose, executive officer of the Launceston Chamber of Commerce, said the funding provided a chance to maximise the potential of the Tamar.

[Read about [what else Thursday's budget holds for Northern Tasmania](#)]

The 70km [estuary system](#), which drains 15 per cent of the state, has [faced concern](#) around its ecological and public health for some years.

In a reader survey, conducted by *The Examiner* last month, cleaning up the Tamar scored the highest weighted rank among a list of 14 priority projects across the region.



"For too long we've turned our back to it," Mr Grose said. "It's an environmental issue but it's an economic opportunity."

"Every other regional and capital city in Australia embraces their estuary and their river that's right in front of them.

"So if you think about the Barwon River in Geelong, or the Yarra River in Melbourne, or the Brisbane River in Brisbane, they are all estuaries which aren't what you would call pristine."

But those cities embrace them, Mr Grose said. "And they embrace them economically, as well as environmentally, as well as for the community."

"So we need to grab the opportunity the government will give us with that money for storm water and just see where that can take us."