

This information has been released following a request made to the Minister for Energy for information regarding cloud seeding between 1 January 2016 and 16 August 2016.

From: [redacted] (DPaC)
Sent: Sunday, 7 February 2016 2:58 PM
To: DPaC - Matthew Groom Ministerial Distribution List
Subject: More Sat summaries

Print Summaries



Tasmanian Government - Media Office

06/02/2016



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Outlet: Tasmanian Country



Tasmanian Country	Story ID 55593	Words 407	Date 05/02/2016	Page 3
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Crossing carnage probed

In this instance, something clearly went very wrong. PETER WEST

From page 01 SEVERE weather is believed to have been a factor in the death of 59 Tasmanian cattle on a journey over Bass Strait.

Primary Industries Minister Jeremy Rockliff described the incident as appalling and said an investigation by the Tasmanian and Victorian state governments had started.

The animals were part of a shipment of about 200 being transported by locally owned vessel the . . .

Keywords: Jeremy Rockliff, State Government, Peter Skillern, Government



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Tasmanian Country	Story ID 55595	Words 411	Date 05/02/2016	Page 9
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Virus blow for oyster farms

It is a very serious issue for the industry in Tasmania and in NSW RICHARD WHITTINGTON

TASMANIA'S \$26 million oyster industry is reeling after confirmation that Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome has broken out in the state.



TASMANIA needs to start
land seeding and promoting
energy efficiency, audit and
building alternative renewable
energy sources like wind, solar,
tidal and geothermal.
State government's and how far
down the Integrated Energy
Management Centre at Man-
nah 1.5 years ago, which was
doing this work effectively.
Blame politicians for the
situation we are in, not sci-
entists, engineers and managers.

Keywords: State Governmen

Released under RTI

From: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Sent: Monday, 29 February 2016 4:12 PM
To: [REDACTED] (DPaC); [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Subject: Fwd: MER Energy Supply Plan update 29 FebruaryFINAL.doc
Attachments: MER Energy Supply Plan update 29 FebruaryFINAL.doc; ATT00001.htm

FYI.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@hydro.com.au>
Date: 29 February 2016 at 3:55:50 PM AEDT
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@dpac.tas.gov.au>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@dpac.tas.gov.au>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@hydro.com.au>
Subject: MER Energy Supply Plan update 29 FebruaryFINAL.doc

For completeness.

Cheers,
[REDACTED]

Released under RTI

29 February 2016

Energy Supply Plan update

Hydro Tasmania and the State Government have a plan to manage energy supply and that plan is being implemented. Today's plan update covers the following key points:

- Work continues on installing up to 200 megawatts of temporary diesel generation with the expected arrival of diesel generators this week at Catagunya Power Station
- Hydro Tasmania will begin its annual cloud seeding season one month early
- Rowallan Power Station has been returned to service following fire damage to transmission lines last month. All generation assets affected by fire have now been returned to service.
- Total energy in storage at 29 February is 16.1 per cent.

The Energy Supply Plan outlines how we will be able to meet all Tasmanian energy demand without Basslink in operation, even in the event of a cool, dry May, and with allowance for an additional adverse event that would have an impact on energy generation, such as loss of a major power station

A range of actions are being initiated as required in response to the unprecedented situation of record low rainfall and the Basslink outage. The current area of focus is securing and preparing to install up to 200 megawatts of temporary diesel generation.

"Over the past week we have seen significant progress on site preparation that will support the installation of temporary diesel generation," said Andrew Catchpole, Acting CEO of Hydro Tasmania.

"It's expected that diesel generators will start arriving at this week at Catagunya Power Station and that the first of the generators will be available for operation by 8 March."

Hydro Tasmania, TasNetworks and others across government are delivering a plan that will have up to 100 megawatts of temporary diesel generation available for operation by the end of March. This involves ongoing and rapid investigations to identify and prepare proposed sites, including the management of technical, logistical and regulatory issues.

Site works have been substantially completed at Catagunya Power Station in preparation for the installation of temporary diesel generation to start this week. Site works are also starting at Meadowbank Power Station and are underway at George Town substation.

"TasNetworks is working with Hydro Tasmania to facilitate the design and construction of diesel generation connections at TasNetworks sites and to ensure all connections to our network comply with the Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) requirements and National Electricity Rules," said TasNetworks CEO, Lance Balcombe.

"A significant amount of work is being done by TasNetworks' expert teams to ensure these new generation connections maintain the safety of our people, our customers and the community, and deliver compliant network services."

Generation from gas and temporary diesel, along with voluntary load reductions by large consumers, will be well in excess of the import capacity of Basslink. This will ensure Tasmanian demand can be met, even with a prolonged Basslink outage.

Hydro Tasmania also announced today that it will begin its cloud seeding season one month earlier than has been usual recent practice.

Hydro Tasmania normally undertakes annual cloud seeding over hydro-generation catchments between May and October (inclusive) each year.

"Due to the unprecedented dry conditions since September 2015 we are planning to commence operations a month early in 2016. An aircraft has been chartered and will be available from 1 April," Mr Catchpole said.

"While seeding over hydro-generation catchments will have the highest priority, Hydro Tasmania is also prepared to undertake cloud seeding over agricultural catchments and bear the cost of this extra activity."

Cloud seeding can only occur if cloud conditions are favourable. Historical information shows that there is a good chance of being able to undertake some cloud seeding activity during April.

Prior to starting cloud seeding operations Hydro Tasmania will hold community information sessions with residents of Tasmania's west coast.

Rowallan Power Station was last week returned to service, following repairs to fire-damaged transmission line. Rowallan was the last of three power stations to be returned to service after fire in the Lake Mackenzie area during January caused extensive damage to a significant amount of infrastructure associated with the stations. This included power poles, communications services and the transmission line between Fisher and Rowallan power stations. The Rowallan-Fisher 22kv line was completed by TasNetworks ready for energising on 23 February and the line was energised by Hydro Tasmania on 24 February.

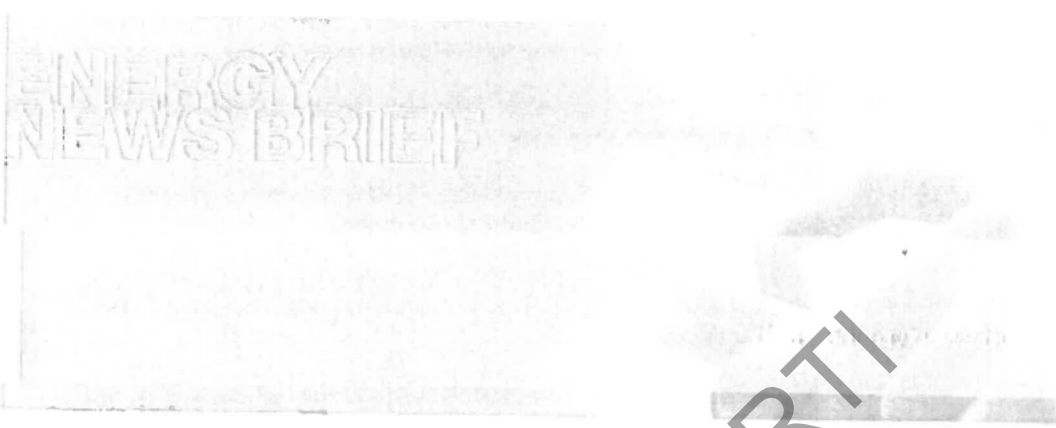
There was a moderate amount of rain in our catchment areas over 24-25 February, resulting in positive net inflows and reducing the rate at which storages were drawn down. The current Bureau of Meteorology forecast predicts no significant rainfall for the week ahead.

Total energy in storage at 29 February is 16.1 per cent.

Ends

Released by [REDACTED]

From: EnergyNewsBrief@energynewsbrief.com.au <EnergyNewsBrief@esaa.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 March 2016 7:19 AM
To: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Subject: Energy News Brief 1 March 2016



1 March 2016

Good morning,

The electricity industry has called for "durable and efficient" climate change policies in Australia following new figures showing rising emissions in the past financial year, the Oz reports. It quotes the chief executive of the Australian Energy Council, Matthew Warren, that the long-term issue is a lack of certainty on climate policy.

Jemena has warned that NT Labor's support for a moratorium on fracking is creating uncertainty in the gas industry and may slow progress on its planned pipeline link to Queensland, the AFR writes. It quotes Jemena's MD, Paul Adams, that potential users of the North East Gas interconnector joked "being spooked" by the opposition stance: "It won't stop the project but it will just slow things down."

Slow progress in reducing the oversupply in Australia's generation capacity has prompted EnergyAustralia to make a provision against the book value of its generation assets, according to the Fin, which also writes that EnergyAustralia has warned that oversupply will continue for some time and "will require a co-ordinated effort among industry players, relevant authorities and local communities to address the problem".

NSW Treasurer Gladys Berejiklian says the sale process for Ausgrid has yielded a "strong" field of interest and a result is still due by mid-year despite regulatory uncertainty that some experts say will have a major impact on how much it is worth, Angela Macdonald-Smith reports.

Hydro Tasmania plans to start its cloud seeding program a month early in an attempt to arrest the fall in Tasmania's water storage, according to the Hobart Mercury. Hydro Tasmania also expects the first 200MW of diesel generation to begin operation on 8 March at the Catagunya power station and to meet all energy demand without Basslink, the paper reports.... Tasmania's Energy Minister, Matthew Groom, opines that the government has a comprehensive plan to ensure that Tasmanian energy security is maintained. He writes that the plan will achieve energy security without forced energy savings, but Hydro will continue to discuss the situation with the major energy users and consider additional "prudent proposals"... while independent MP, Ruth Forrest, argues in an op-ed that the Basslink issue has highlighted Tasmania's financial vulnerabilities and its dependence on revenue

from government businesses which is 80% reliant on electricity businesses.... and Peter Bo, er claims that the measures undertaken by the State Government are stopgap and won't address the systemic ; roblem. He points to King Island's integration of renewables for "near baseload" generation as an innovative solution.

Origin's Otway Gas Plant will be shut for four weeks to allow inspections of key plant and recertification, the Warrnambool Standard reports.

For more information on issues on the Brief contact [REDACTED] Alternatively email [here](#).

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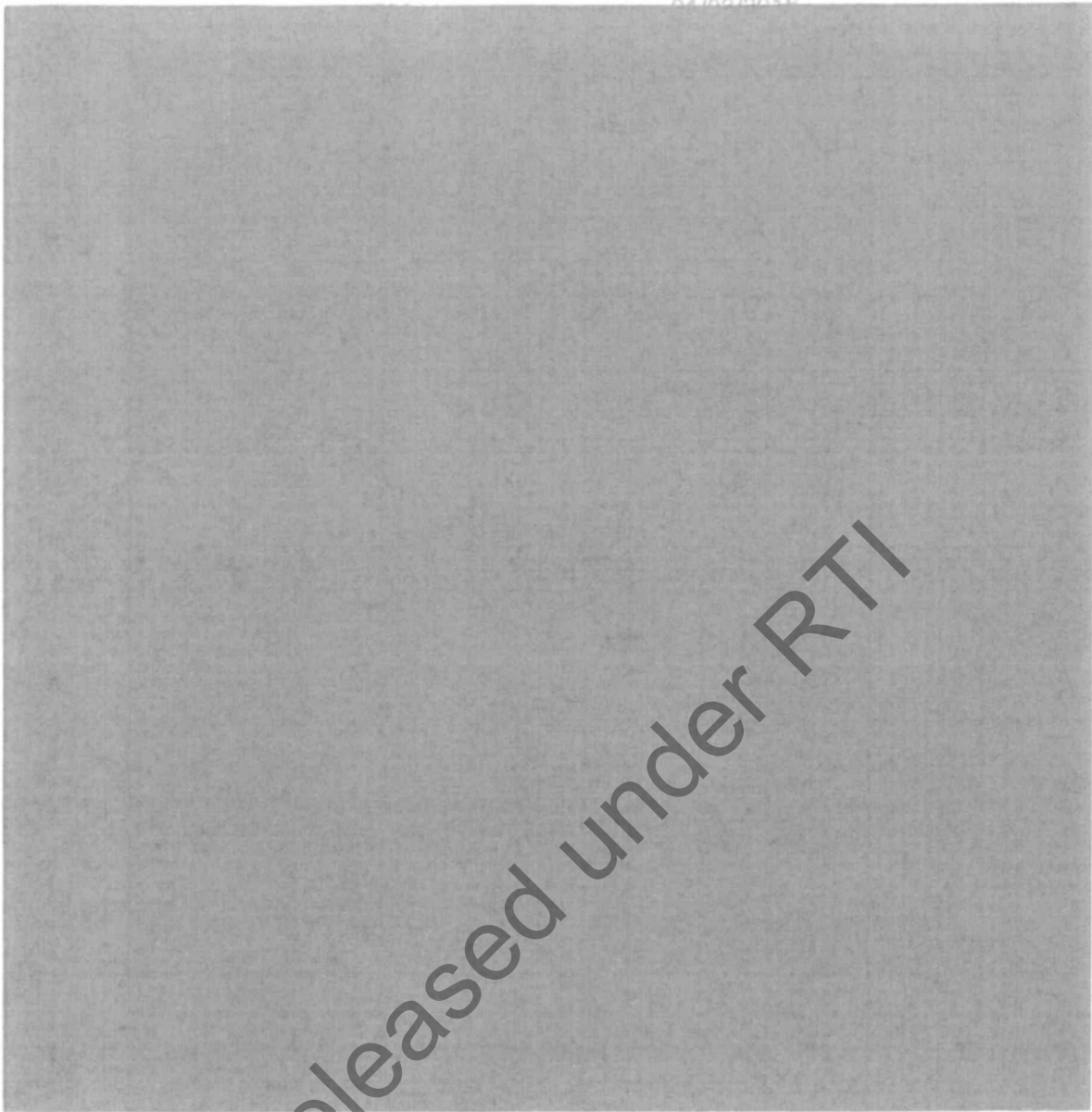
#26

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] (DPaC)
Sent: Tuesday, 1 March 2016 8:25 AM
To: DPaC - Matthew Groom Ministerial Distribution List
Subject: Tuesday papers

[Large Redacted Area]

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Browser address bar with a small icon on the left.

The Advocate	Story ID 58013	Words 196	Date 01/03/2016	Page 6
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Hydro to start early on seeding

TEMPORARY generators obtained by Hydro Tasmania will guzzle 20 million litres of diesel a month.

The company announced on Monday it would begin cloud seeding one month early, in an effort to increase dam storage levels – which levels are this week sitting at 16.1 per cent.



Work continues on installing up to 200 megawatts of temporary diesel generation with the expected arrival of generators this

week at Catagunya Power Station. Hydro acting chief . . .

Keywords: Hydro, Basslink

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The company announced on Monday it would begin cloud seeding one month early, in an effort to increase dam storage levels.

Tasmania's dam levels are this week sitting at 16.1 per cent.

Work continues on installing up to 200 megawatts of temporary diesel generation with the expected arrival of generators this week . . .

Keywords: Hydro, Basslink

Released under RTI

#30

From: [redacted]@hydro.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 April 2016 2:57 PM
To: [redacted] (DPaC)
Cc: [redacted] (DPaC); [redacted] (DPaC); [redacted]
Subject: FW: Seeding flight for multiple catchments today 28th April - total of 1 hr 4min seeding

Hi [redacted]

FYI - This one today – lengthy flight of just over one hour – and more expected over next few days.

No announcement, just for info. Will include in Monday's update when we see what we get over the weekend.

Cheers,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 28 April 2016 2:50 PM
To: [redacted]

Subject: Seeding flight for multiple catchments today 28th April - total of 1 hr 4min seeding

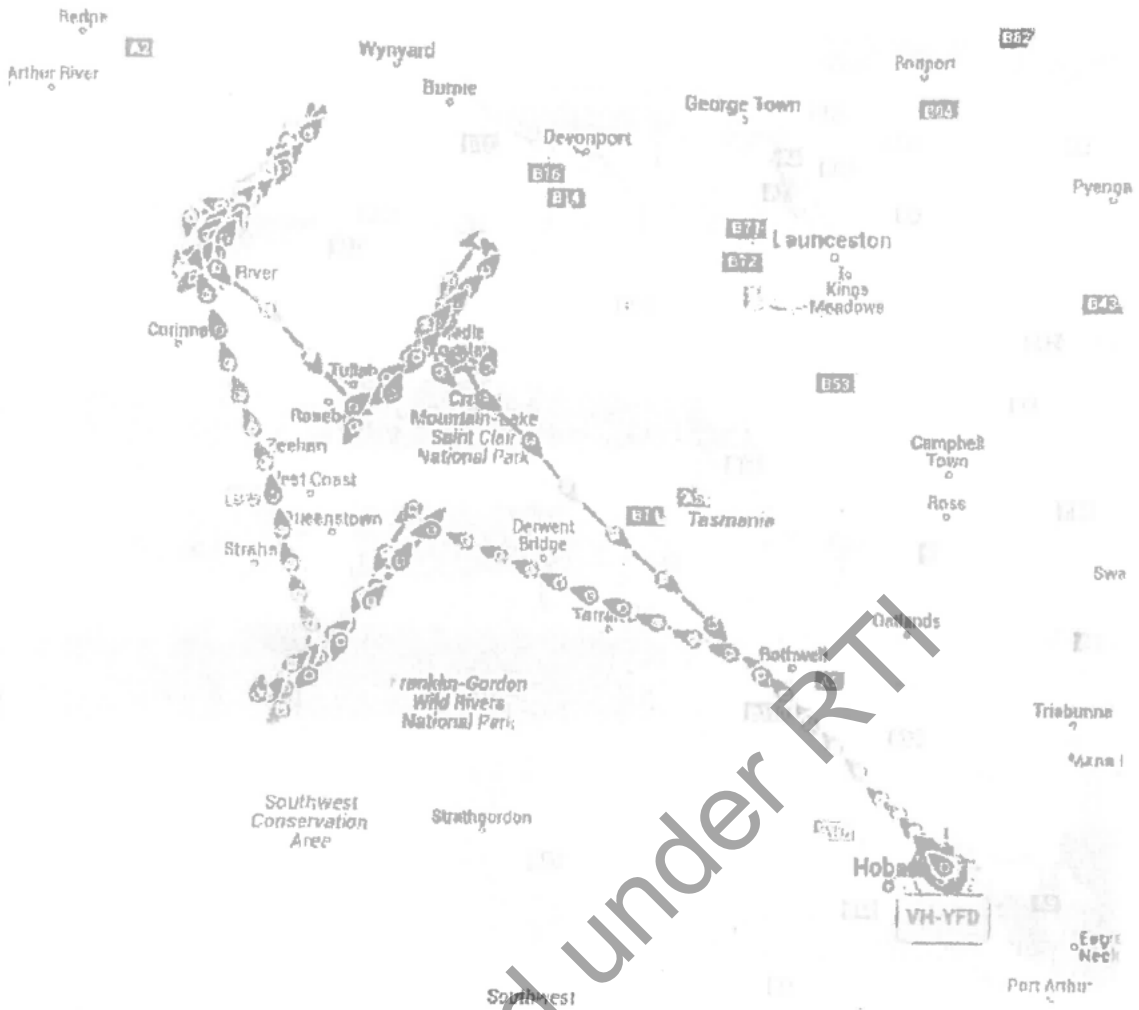
Please be advised that the cloud seeding crew [redacted] and pilot [redacted] undertook a seeding flight today, Thursday 28th April. They checked out a trough associated with a cold front crossing Tasmania this morning. All our Hydro Catchments were investigated.

Seeding for total of 1 hr and 4 min.
 Upper Pieman (Lake Mackintosh) and Mersey Forth (Lake Rowallan) catchments 46 min seeding.
 Upper Derwent (Lake St Clair, Lake King William and Lake Echo) and Great Lake catchments – 18 min seeding.

Conditions were marginal to fair. Temperature just -5 degrees and cloud in layers with some gaps between layers.

Tor the Gordon catchment was also investigated, but no suitable conditions found.
 Flying time - 4 hrs 14 min
 Flight level 14,000 ft
 Wind 310/50

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The power of natural thinking
www.hydro.com.au
4 Elizabeth Street, Hobart TAS 7000



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#31

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@hydro.com.au
Sent: Thursday, 28 April 2016 2:58 PM
To: [Redacted] (DPaC)
Cc: [Redacted] (DPaC); [Redacted] (DPaC); [Redacted]
Subject: FW: Steve's interview with the Guardian

Hi [Redacted]

Steve did interview with the Guardian [Redacted]

Key points:
- [Redacted]
- Touched on cloud seeding, diesel overview, TVPS sale, Basslink, second cable, water levels, carbon price.
- [Redacted]

Story expected to run tomorrow.

Regards,
[Redacted]

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p [Redacted]
www.hydro.com.au
4 Elizabeth Street, Hobart TAS 7000

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[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@hydro.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 3 May 2016 11:06 AM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted] (DPaC); [Redacted] (DPaC)
Subject: Cloud seeding [Redacted]

Hi all

Today we undertook the first cloud seeding over ag land. Still firming up details, but looks like we seeded over municipalities of Central Highlands, Northern Midlands and Southern Midlands. As usual, we primarily targeted the Hydro catchments (seeded in Upper Derwent and Great Lake), but were able to do the ag seeding on the way to primary seeding track and on the way back to Hobart.

They are going out on another flight now, so will update with more details later today, or possibly tomorrow morning.

Cheers,

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

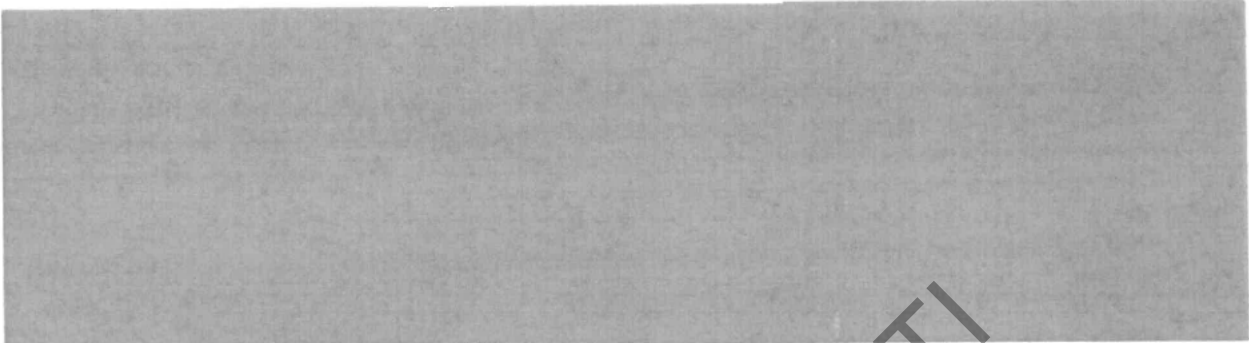
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#34

From: [Redacted] (DPaC)
Sent: Tuesday, 3 May 2016 5:39 PM
To: [Redacted] (DPaC); [Redacted] (DPaC)
Cc: [Redacted] (DPaC)
Subject: FW: TFGA Correspondence
Attachments: Minister Groom_Cloud Seeding_030516.pdf



From: [Redacted] [tfga.com.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 3 May 2016 10:28 AM
To: matthew.groom@parliament.tas.gov.au
Subject: TFGA Correspondence

Dear Minister

Please find attached correspondence from the TFGA President, Wayne Johnston, for your consideration.

Regards

Nick

[Redacted]
Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association
Rural Affairs Manager
Cnr Cimitiere & Charles Streets
Launceston TAS 7250
[Redacted]



www.tfga.com.au



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The Hon. Matthew Groom
Minister for Energy
Level One, Franklin Square,
HOBART TAS 7000

Email: matthew.groom@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Minister,

As you would be aware the agriculture sector is experiencing very dry conditions and in Southern regions drought like circumstances. These conditions are placing extreme economic and emotional pressure on our members.

The recent announcements by Hydro Tasmania advising the implementation of cloud seeding as at April 1st has not been well received by our membership at large, indeed there has been open criticism of both the government and Hydro for this decision.

The issue of cloud seeding has been a vexed issue for many years, however in the context of the current season there is a greater focus on the practises potential negative effects. The argument is that cloud seeding diminishes rainfall further downwind with the resultant continuation of the dry season.

The TFGA is concerned that to date there is no conclusive scientific evidence to conclude that such practices do not have a deleterious effect to rainfall downwind of the event. Indeed the World Meteorological Organisation report, dated March 2016, concluded that the unintended consequences of weather modification, such as downwind effects, have not been demonstrated but cannot be ruled out¹.

The statement "but cannot be ruled out" is our key concern. Hydro's main cloud seeding catchment is the Gordon, which is in line with some of the driest agriculture regions within the Southern Midlands and Central Highlands. Accordingly we believe that it is incumbent on the government and Hydro to demonstrate credible scientific evidence that cloud seeding isn't having negative downwind effects.

¹ World Meteorological Organization, March 2016. WMO Documents on Weather Modification

Cloud seeding remains significantly contentious, especially during dry years, and our members are of the strong view that unless concrete evidence can be provided the practice of cloud seeding should be reviewed and a cautious approach taken to any further cloud seeding operations.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. A. Johnston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W".

Wayne Johnston
President
3 May 2016

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Sent: Tuesday, 3 May 2016 5:56 PM
To: [REDACTED] (DPaC); [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Cc: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Subject: RE: TFGA Correspondence

Yep I will.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Sent: Tuesday, 3 May 2016 5:54 PM
To: [REDACTED] (DPaC); [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Cc: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Subject: RE: TFGA Correspondence

Hi,

Can we please get Hydro to brief them asap?

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 3 May 2016 10:28 AM
To: matthew.groom@parliament.tas.gov.au
Subject: TFGA Correspondence

Dear Minister

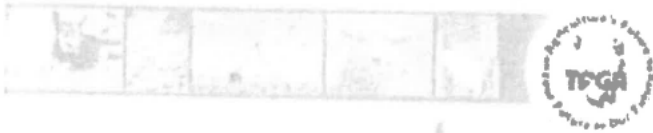
Please find attached correspondence from the TFGA President, Wayne Johnston, for your consideration.

Regards

Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association
Rural Affairs Manager
Cnr Gimitiere & Charles Streets
Launceston TAS 7250

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#37

From: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Sent: Wednesday, 4 May 2016 10:04 AM
To: [REDACTED] (DPaC); [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Subject: FW: QTB on cloud seeding
Attachments: QTB cloud seeding May 2016.docx

Heads up for info if needed.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@hydro.com.au
Sent: Wednesday, 4 May 2016 9:37 AM
To: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: QTB on cloud seeding

Hi [REDACTED]

See attached QTB on cloud seeding

[REDACTED]

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www.hydro.com.au
4 Elizabeth Street Hobart TAS 7000

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#54

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted] Wednesday, 8 June 2016 4:11 PM
Cc: [Redacted] (DPaC)
Subject: [Redacted] (DPaC); [Redacted]
Cloud seeding and boating warning

Hi [Redacted]

As discussed, we issued a joint warning today with MAST / IFS. You can read it here:
<http://www.hydro.com.au/about-us/news/2016-06/warning-boaters>

[Large Redacted Block]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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#57

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Sent: Thursday, 9 June 2016 10:36 AM
To: [REDACTED] (DPaC); [REDACTED]@dpac.tas.gov.au; [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Subject: FW: Impact of heavy rainfall and flooding.docx
Attachments: Impact of heavy rainfall and flooding.docx

Hydro put this out yesterday , but not specific to Rowallan and Parangana. I will follow up

From: [REDACTED]@hydro.com.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 June 2016 4:09 PM
To: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Cc: [REDACTED] (DPaC); [REDACTED] (DPaC); [REDACTED]
Subject: Impact of heavy rainfall and flooding.docx

Hi [REDACTED]

Final of release, as discussed.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

Released under RTI

Impact of heavy rainfall and flooding

Unprecedented rainfall has fallen across several of Hydro Tasmania's catchments in the past 72 hours.

Hydro Tasmania's operational focus at this time is on the safety of our people, the public and our assets.

"Some of the flood flows being experienced in northern Tasmania are at historic highs. However, our dams and spillways are operating well within their design parameters," said Chris Topham, Dam Safety Manager.

"Importantly, there is no issue with respect to dam safety.

"We increased the level of monitoring our dams and spillways at the start of the heavy rains. Now that water has started to subside, inspections have found minor damage to non-critical elements of some dams.

"This minor damage will be repaired over coming weeks, and poses no issue to power generation or dam safety."

Floodwaters have also caused damage to some of Hydro Tasmania's secondary assets, mainly landslips and road damage, damage to some canals, as well as failure of some river flow monitoring sites. Until the water subsides further, it is not possible to fully assess the extent of that damage.

Hydro Tasmania's cloud seeding program is on hold due to the high river levels across the state.

Hydro Tasmania has urged people to heed the advice of Tasmania Police and the State Emergency Service, and take notice of warnings from the Bureau of Meteorology.

Hydro Tasmania is aware of the devastating impact of these floods and extends its sympathies to all who have been affected.

Ends.

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#68

From: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Sent: Friday, 10 June 2016 3:48 PM
To: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Cc: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Subject: Shared from Twitter: Hydro Tasmania asked to explain cloud seeding in catchment day before flooding - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

[Hydro Tasmania asked to explain cloud seeding in catchment day before flooding - ABC News \(Australian Broadcasting Corporation\) from Pelican Boy's Tweet](#)

[Download the Twitter app](#)

[REDACTED]
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the Premier, the Hon Will Hodgman
MP

Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events
Minister for Sport and Recreation
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Level 11, 15 Murray Street
HOBART TAS 7000
Phone: (03) 6165 7650

[REDACTED]
e-mail: [REDACTED]

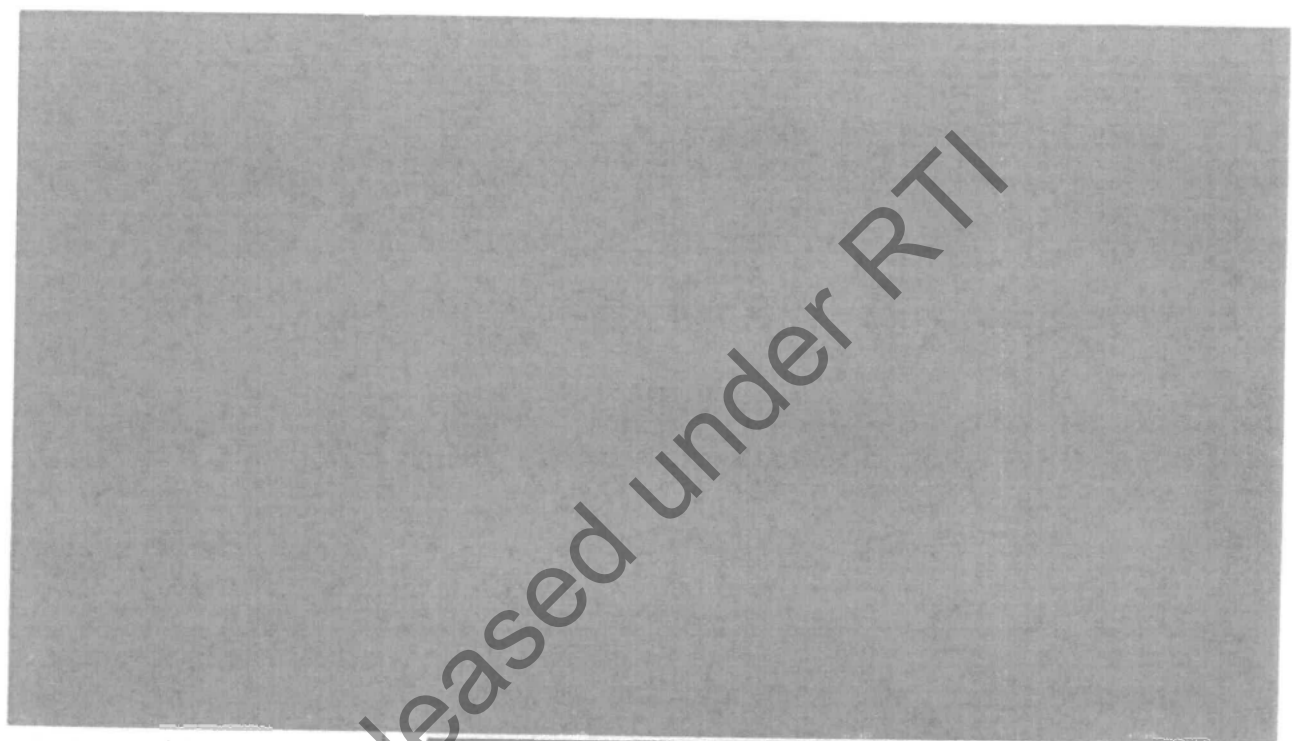
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#72

From: [Redacted]
Sent: [Redacted] @hydro.com.au
To: Monday, 13 June 2016 3:36 PM
Cc: [Redacted] (DPaC); [Redacted] (DPaC)
Subject: [Redacted] (DPaC)
Attachments: FW: ABC interview
 ABC.M4A

fyi

audio attached



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From: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Sent: Tuesday, 21 June 2016 9:29 AM
To: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Subject: FW: Release - both formats
Attachments: Hydro Tasmania Floods Cloud Seeding release.docx; Hydro Tasmania Floods Cloud Seeding release.pdf

Hi [REDACTED]

Media release put out by Hydro Tasmania. Also note that the Minister has requested a detailed briefing in relation to the decision to undertake a cloud seeding event on that day.

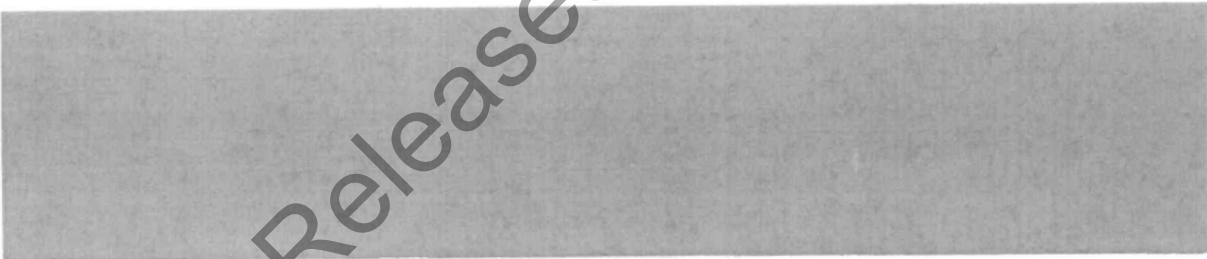
Thanks

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@hydro.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 10 June 2016 4:46 PM
To: [REDACTED] (DPaC); [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Release - both formats

Hi [REDACTED]

Media release on cloud seeding has just gone out.

Cheers,
[REDACTED]



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Hydro Tasmania
 The power of natural thinking

[REDACTED]
www.hydro.com.au
 4 Elizabeth Street, Hobart TAS 7000

19 JUNE, 2016

Hydro Tasmania is aware of the devastating impact of the recent floods and extends its sympathies to all who have been affected.

Hydro Tasmania's operational focus at this time is on the safety of our people, the public and our assets.

Hydro Tasmania understands community concern about its cloud seeding program.

Due to the unprecedented dry conditions since September 2015, Hydro Tasmania began its cloud seeding season in April, one month earlier than has been the practice in recent years, to help rebuild storages affected by record low rainfall during Spring 2015 – Autumn 2016.

As part of that program a cloud seeding flight was undertaken on Sunday morning, 5 June. It was targeting the Upper Derwent catchment, specifically Lake Echo, one of the storages that remained below its desired level.

There were no flood warnings in effect for the Upper Derwent at the time of the flight.

This area received a substantial, but not excessive, amount of rain after Sunday morning's flight.

Water in the Ouse River came from the overtopping of Lake Augusta due to the flood event. Lake Augusta is not in the catchment targeted by Sunday's cloud seeding flight.

Hydro Tasmania's cloud seeding program is currently on hold.

We believe that operation of our dams and waterways did not contribute to the flood flow. We had been operating storages to reduce levels following the significant inflows in May.

Many small and medium storages have been spilling, which is not unusual during times of high inflows. These storages have been spilling on and off since strong rainfall started in early May.

When they are approaching full or on spill, we generate as strongly as possible to avoid or minimise spilling. Our dams are not designed for flood mitigation. When they reach full supply level what flows in, flows out. During extreme flood events, spill is inevitable.

Inspections to date have found minor damage to non-critical elements of some dams. This minor damage will be repaired over coming weeks, and poses no issue for power generation or dam safety.

Floodwaters have also caused damage to some of Hydro Tasmania's secondary assets, mainly landslips and road damage, damage to some canals, as well as failure of some river flow monitoring sites. We continue to assess the extent of that damage.

Ends.

For further information, please call Hydro Tasmania Communications on 0409 722359.

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111

From: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Sent: Friday, 29 July 2016 3:34 PM
To: [REDACTED] (DPaC); [REDACTED] (DPaC); [REDACTED] (DPaC); [REDACTED]@dpac.tas.gov.au
Subject: FW: cloud seeding report
Attachments: Brief for Minister Groom cloud seeding report 29 July 2016.docx; Cloud Seeding Final Report to Minister - 29 July 2016.pdf

Here is the report

From: [REDACTED]@hydro.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 29 July 2016 3:27 PM
To: [REDACTED] (DPaC); [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: cloud seeding report

Gentlemen

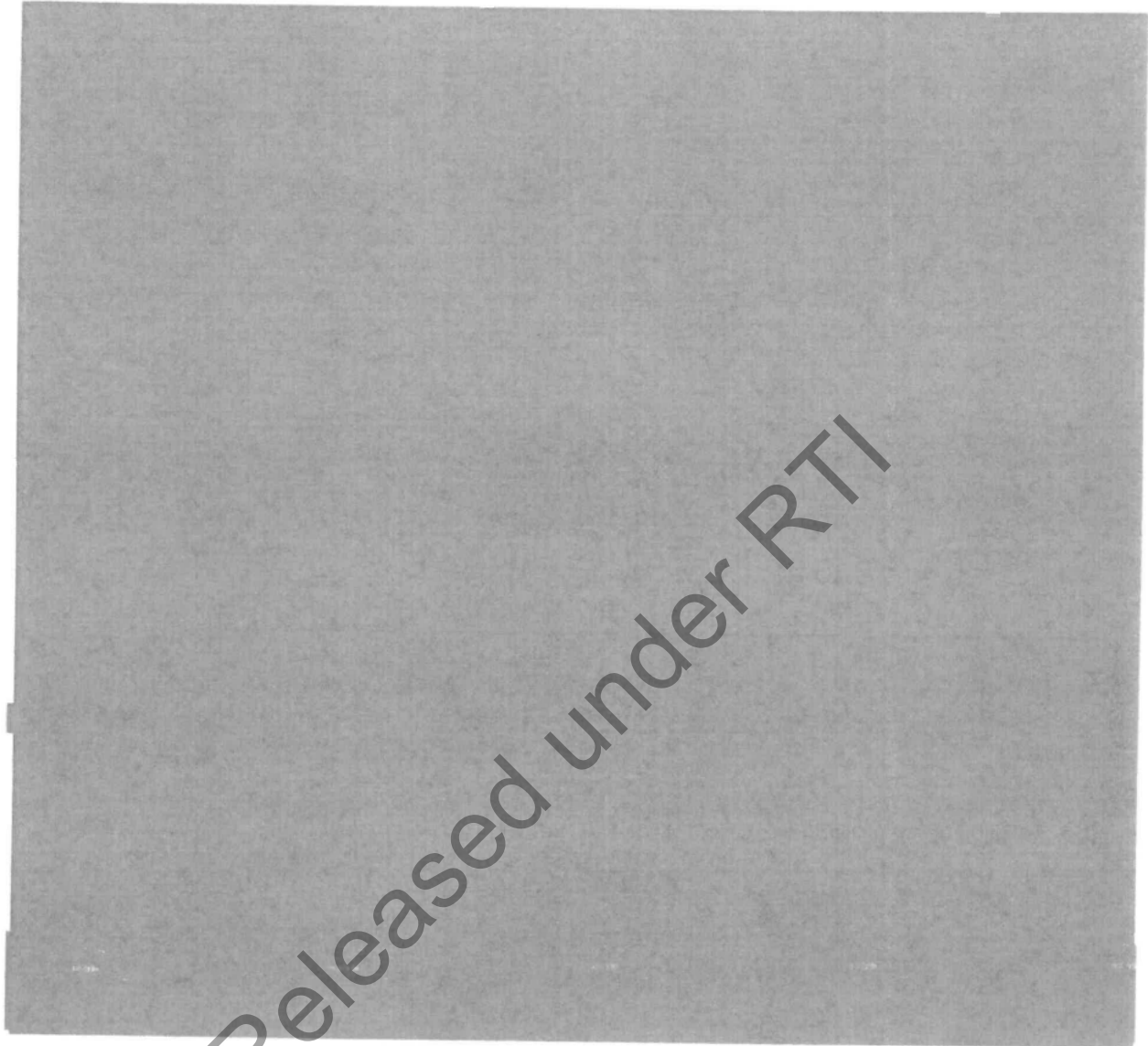
Please find attached the cloud seeding report as promised.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

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#123



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From: Labor Media [mailto:labor.media@parliament.tas.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 1 August 2016 9:31 AM
Subject: Media opportunity

1 August 2016

Bryan Green MP
Labor Leader
Media opportunity

Labor Leader Bryan Green will today be available to discuss Hydro's internal report on its cloud seeding activities in early June.

Where: Parliament lawns

When: 12.30pm

More information: Alex Johnston 0407522737

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Tasmanian
Labor 

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#124

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Sent: Monday, 1 August 2016 11:14 AM
To: [REDACTED] (DPaC); [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Subject: Fwd: 1100 ABC Radio news summary
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the Premier, the Hon Will Hodgman
MP

Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events
Minister for Sport and Recreation
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Level 11, 15 Murray Street
HOBART TAS 7000
Phone: (03) 6165 7650

e-mail: [REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Date: 1 August 2016 at 11:07:31 AM AEST
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Subject: 1100 ABC Radio news summary

Tas Police appear to be searching a wider area for four men missing in a boat in Hobart. The four men in their 20s and 30s are now 20 hrs overdue from a popular fishing spot

Truck crashes into house at Scottsdale, emergency services on scene in George St, no reported injuries. Truck has brought down powerlines and is stuck in the house

Ousted Queensland Ewan Jones says Coalition owes it to its supporters to contest the results in Herbert

Bryan Green slams report into Hydro Tasmania cloud seeding flight in June, saying it raises more questions, says report says cloud seeding was waste of time anyway, costs a lot of money, why would it occur? does not ring true

National Missing Person Weeks being launched today, about 35,000 Australians reported missing each year, one every 15 min. 95% found soon after. AFP says those left behind need answers

Tas Police uses campaign to renew calls for info on missing man Nicola Salles from Sheffield, soon after he was diagnosed with dementia. His car has never been found. 156 long-term missing people in Tasmania

Strong gains in mining and energy boost local share market. A\$ 75.95 US cents

Media Assistant
Office of the Premier, the Hon Will Hodgman MP

Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events
Minister for Sport and Recreation
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Level 11, 15 Murray Street HOBART TAS 7000
Phone: (03) 6165 7660



www.premier.tas.gov.au



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(It may be necessary to cut and paste the above URL if the line is broken)

or send a blank email with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line to:

leave-64227-47278.541335b943702a76027e352e38c04d47@lyris.dpac.tas.gov.au

#126

From: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Sent: Monday, 1 August 2016 12:32 PM
To: [REDACTED] (DPaC); [REDACTED] (DPaC); [REDACTED] (DPaC); [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Subject: MG Cloud Seeding Report
Attachments: MG Cloud Seeding Report.m4a; ATT00001.txt

Released under RTI



Premier's Office
Transcript

ABC RADIO MORNINGS

MONDAY 01 AUGUST 2016

HYDRO CLOUD SEEDING REPORT

Leon Compton - Presenter, Bryan Green - Labor Opposition Leader

COMPTON Bryan Green is the Leader of the Opposition. Bryan Green, good morning to you.

GREEN Good morning, Leon.

COMPTON Do you believe that Hydro tried to bury the report by releasing it at that time?

GREEN I think the way that this report came about in the first place put Hydro in, I guess, an awkward situation. You see, the report came about as a result of the floods occurring, people starting to ask questions, was there really cloud seeding going on in the middle of those floods and leading up to that point. And then Matthew Groom and the Premier effectively panicking and saying, ah, we will get Hydro to look at it, and, you know, there will be a report effectively just within a short period of time, which will allow us to understand exactly what occurred. I'm concerned about the way that the report was released and the timing of it. It just doesn't seem to make sense to me. I think that the Hydro I know is always out on the front foot. They will have someone standing in front of the camera explaining exactly what the situation was. And it seems to me it's just effectively one of these situations where it leaves more questions to be answered than it actually does clear up, because if you read the report, it actually says that, oh, don't worry about it, the cloud seeding was a waste of time anyway. Well, you know, sending people up on a waste of time costs a lot of money. You would wonder why that would occur as well. It just doesn't ring true to me.

COMPTON One wonders, and this is contained in the report, how having said that you have to be in the clouds to work out if cloud seeding will work, that the cloud seeding was then conducted, but then Hydro Tasmania can categorically say it didn't contribute to the rain. This is the portion of the report that you're referring to.

GREEN Yes, I am. And, look, I fish that area a lot. I know what happens with Augusta. Augusta was spilling. Most people, you know, don't completely understand how the system works up there. The system works on the basis that the water normally drains into Great Lake from the catchment, the Western Tiers catchment. It does that because of the Liawenee Canal. But when the Liawenee Canal cannot take any more and the... you know, it's running flat out, the lake spills, and it spills over a massive, long spillway and flows directly back into the Ouse, where the water used to run in the first place. Once upon a time all of that water used to drain down the Ouse. Now obviously a large proportion goes out the Tamar through Poatina. So, cloud seeding when it was actually spilling to me is pretty dangerous, because cloud seeding in itself can potentially lead to flash flooding anyway. That's a risk mitigation that the Hydro has to take when cloud seeding, because of, you know, I mean, they can't predict exactly what's going to occur. And to suggest that it was just going to sort of allow rain to fall over parts of Great Lake and then Lake Echo is just too (chuckles), you know, you only have to be out by a few hundred meters in that catchment and it's all effectively back into the Augusta system which all went down the Ouse or potentially down the Mersey. So...

COMPTON What should happen from here?

GREEN Ah look, I think that there needs to be some sort of independent look at this, Leon. It's just.., I know I'm being cautious because obviously there is coronial inquiries, and I think that Hydro is probably being cautious maybe for that reason as well, to a degree. But, look, I would much rather see the old Hydro out there, you know, defending their position, allowing people to understand exactly what happened, why the decisions were made. I don't like the way that the report's been put out. And it's sort of, to me, it sort of almost acting in concert with the way that the Government's acting, you know, at the hospital. You know, they're putting reports out late in the day effectively to *protect*? themselves, but.., to get the sort of attention that would normally come with a timely announcement means to me that.., it says to me that they're.., you know, effectively the Government is wanting to shield itself, which has been the way that they've operated right the way through.

COMPTON Well, we've put in calls to Hydro across the course of the weekend. We've asked them to come on and be parts of *Mornings* this morning, and they have declined. Thanks for talking with us.

GREEN My pleasure. Thanks, Leon.

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From: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Sent: Wednesday, 3 August 2016 10:20 AM
To: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Subject: FW: Government must back independent cloud seeding inquiry
Attachments: image001.emz

From: Labor Media [mailto:labor.media@parliament.tas.gov.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 August 2016 10:16 AM
Subject: Government must back independent cloud seeding inquiry

Bryan Green MP
Labor Leader

3 August 2016

Government must back independent cloud seeding inquiry

- **Call for independent inquiry grows**
- **Mayors, farmers, independents all want a fresh look at cloud seeding activity**
- **Minister Groom must act**

The Liberal Government has no choice but to initiate an independent inquiry into Hydro's cloud seeding activity on June 5.

Labor Leader Bryan Green said Minister Matthew Groom can no longer hide behind secrecy and childish political attacks.

"Local government leaders, the TFGA, independent legislative councillors and members of the public have all supported Labor's calls for an independent inquiry," Mr Green said.

"Matthew Groom must finally recognise legitimate public concern and call for an independent and transparent assessment.

"Tasmanians are rightly concerned about the impact of cloud seeding in the midst of flood warnings across the state.

"There are also calls for a broader look at the practice of cloud seeding and its effectiveness or otherwise. Labor would support that course of action.

"But at the front of people's mind is why Hydro decided to cloud seed on June 5 and what the consequences were.

"Hydro's internal report, released late on Friday, is not adequate."

More information: Alex Johnston 0407522737

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From: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Sent: Wednesday, 3 August 2016 2:37 PM
To: Groom, Matthew (DPaC)
Subject: FW: JR audio on cloud seeding
Attachments: [REDACTED].48; ATT00001.txt

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Sent: Wednesday, 3 August 2016 12:07 PM
To: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Subject: JR audio on cloud seeding

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Sent: Wednesday, 3 August 2016 12:06 PM
To: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Subject: Jr

Attached: Jr

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#140

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Sent: Wednesday, 3 August 2016 12:48 PM
To: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Subject: FW: Message from KMBT_C454e
Attachments: SKMBT_C454e16080313520.pdf

[REDACTED]

From: mediakonica@dpa.tas.gov.au [mailto:mediakonica@dpa.tas.gov.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 August 2016 11:52 PM
To: [REDACTED] (DPaC)
Subject: Message from KMBT_C454e

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Case for cloud seeding

MERCURY //

Value in benefits, says study

HELEN KEMPTON

THE benefits of cloud seeding far outweigh the negatives, an independent study into Hydro Tasmania's controversial rain-making activities has found.

Cloud-seeding planes first hit the skies in Tasmania in 1967 as a result of experiments with the CSIRO.

Hydro Tasmania started its program in 1968 and values cloud seeding as a small but important dam-filling strategy.

But West Coast residents and tourism operators have long claimed the rain generated by cloud seeding ruins community activities and costs visitor dollars.

The SGS Economics report, out yesterday, says the net benefits of cloud seeding to Tasmania outweigh the negatives.

Commissioned by Hydro Tasmania at the request of the West Coast Council, the report says the extra water generated is worth up to \$7 million a year while its maximum cost to the West Coast is less than \$200,000.

The report says cloud seeding does not bring more rainy days. Rather, it increases the intensity of rainfall—by up to 8 per cent in a "seeded" month in a target area.

SGS Economics says there is some evidence to show that

tended seeding occurs outside targeted areas and that Rosebery and Tullish are most impacted by rain drift.

The report admits a barrier of mistrust between the community and Hydro Tasmania.

Hydro Tasmania will now alert the community to its cloud-seeding operations on local radio and its website.

West Coast Mayor Darryl Gerrity said the commissioning of the report showed there

had been a positive culture shift at Hydro Tasmania.

"Cloud seeding will still occur but Hydro Tasmania will conduct its programs with a much higher concern for what is below them," he said.

"We still disagree on some technical aspects. The study says there is no scientific evidence to show cloud seeding on the West Coast deprived Tasmania's east of rain.

"But there does seem to be some global anecdotal evidence forcing rain to fall in some areas can stop it falling somewhere else.

"There is a lot of debate still to come. I should make it clear the council's engagement in the report process does not mitigate any other industry or the mining or tourism industries from expressing their own views and concerns."

The report says there seems to be a shift in rainfall patterns on the West Coast with more falling in spring and less in autumn and winter.

The report says the 21 extreme rainfall events reported in Rosebery coincided with cloud seeding there was no proof of a causal relationship between the two," it says.

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