

24 July 2024

Department: Environmental Health  
Request: 2024-099538

Mr Duncan Spender  
Chief Executive Officer - Oysters Tasmania  
117 Sandy Bay Road  
SANDY BAY TAS 7005  
Via email only: [ceo@oysterstasmania.org](mailto:ceo@oysterstasmania.org)

Dear Mr Spender

Thank you for your email of 9 July 2024 regarding Oysters Tasmania's concerns over environmental drivers into Pipe Clay Lagoon and the possibility that domestic wastewater systems in the Cremorne area may be impacting water quality and affecting commercial oyster growth and mortalities in the Pipe Clay Lagoon.

Council is aware of this issue and understands that whilst the cause is currently unknown, all environmental drivers are being investigated by the oyster industry in conjunction with other organisations including ShellMAP, UTAS as well as the business Marine Solutions, who are currently undertaking an investigation into this matter.

Your request that council reinstate reminders to property owners in the Pipe Clay Lagoon region to de-sludge septic tanks is noted.

I can advise that Council Officers in the Environmental Health Unit have taken particular interest in the matter of water quality in Pipe Clay Lagoon, especially since 2021 when the matter of sea grass proliferation attracted attention and concern by local residents.

Council has been involved with monitoring of groundwater around Pipe Clay Lagoon since a series of bores were installed in 2007/2008 for the purpose of frequent testing and reporting, to monitor the potential human impact, including wastewater systems on groundwater.

It would appear this is a timely opportunity for council to share any information that would benefit Oysters Tasmania and other relevant organisations currently investigating this matter. Council would be more than happy and willing to have further discussions with Oysters Tasmania, to provide an overview of what monitoring activities council has undertaken in relation to water quality in the Pipeclay region, and what further activities and commitment will be made in future, to monitor and protect Pipe Clay Lagoon from human impact.

Council appreciates that this matter requires close collaboration, transparency and sharing of information between relevant organisations to understand the cause of the extremely poor oyster growth and mass oyster mortalities being experienced by the oyster industry in the Pipe Clay Lagoon.

I am aware that Council's Manager of Environmental Health Services, Scott Edwards, has been in contact with you in relation to your letter. Scott will contact you again to discuss how information can best be shared with Oysters Tasmania and if necessary, meet with you to discuss your requests and explain what activities are being undertaken and scheduled for the near future in relation to monitoring ground water quality around Pipeclay Lagoon.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Scott Edwards on 6217 9573 or by email [sedwards@ccc.tas.gov.au](mailto:sedwards@ccc.tas.gov.au)

Yours sincerely



Councillor Brendan Blomeley  
**MAYOR**