

13<sup>th</sup> July 2008

Premier David Bartlett  
PO Box 123  
Hobart  
Tasmania 7001

Dear Sir,

### **Access to Ministers**

On 5/6/2008 evening television news you said you would make your ministers available to the people.

On your new web site <http://www.premier.tas.gov.au> you state:-

*“I said when I became Premier that I want Tasmania to be a clever, kind and connected place. One mode of connection is through the internet – so I’m really pleased to place this first recorded message on my new website as Premier.*

*I think it’s vital that people get to see their politicians – that we stay connected to the hopes and needs of people in our communities. So, starting in Smithton mid-July, Cabinet will meet at different locations around the State, so that people have direct access to me, ministers and heads of government departments and we’re happy to hear the good, the bad and the ugly. I want to give Tasmanians an opportunity to pitch their ideas for the future directly to the most senior decision-makers within government and have their concerns listened and responded to.*

*My Government is accessible to all Tasmanians and you can contact all Government Ministers from this website. And we’ll be using it to share with Tasmanians what we are working on – everything from literacy programs to energy saving traffic lights – so I hope you’ll visit this website regularly*

*I hope to see you sometime soon.”*

For some time now I have been trying to meet with the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Minister for Sport and Recreation (Michelle O’Byrne) on a serious environmental issue that has hospitalized me on four occasions and continues to cause worry for me and to all that know me.

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Attached please find for your convenience my letter to the Environment Department (3/7/2008) asking for a meeting with the Minister and detailing my previous attempts to meet with her.

Also for your convenience please find an emailed response to my request which was another refusal (9/7/2008). Unfortunately this hardly lives up to your wishes of being “clever, kind and connected.”

I find it somewhat puzzling that you are saying, “*I want to give Tasmanians an opportunity to pitch their ideas for the future directly to the most senior decision-makers within government and have their concerns listened and responded to*” and “*My Government is accessible to all Tasmanians and you can contact all Government Ministers...*” when in practice repeated requests to do just this with the Environment Minister, have been met with one refusal after another for some time now.

I believe I am not the only one this is happening to.

I am writing to ask if you would kindly look into this matter for me at your earliest convenience given the time that has already elapsed since my first request.

Hopefully, the Minister will make herself available to me in the near future to address the pressing environmental issues that are of real concern to me.

Yours faithfully,

Clive M. Stott