



TasNetworks Acts to Investigate Legacy Herbicide Use

16 May 2019

TasNetworks today announced it is investigating the use by the former Hydro Electric Commission (HEC) of a type of herbicide used for vegetation spraying which was applied by employees between the 1960s and the 1980s.

“We have been working closely with some existing TasNetworks employees and former employees of the HEC who we know came into contact with the herbicide during routine work practices over this period” said TasNetworks CEO, Lance Balcombe.

Mr Balcombe said information sessions are being planned and undertaken with the people identified as having come into contact with the herbicide.

“We are reaching back in history, which can at times be difficult. As a business and with the support of our Board, we will be doing everything we can to ensure that any current or former employees who may have applied the herbicide are provided with the appropriate support and information. We are absolutely committed to identifying any other people that may have applied the herbicide during that time.”

“We have engaged an expert toxicologist to assist us with our discussions with current and former employees and he will be travelling to Tasmania next week to participate in the information sessions as we work through this issue” Mr Balcombe said.

TasNetworks has been working with WorkSafe Tasmania, who also have publicly available information on this issue and we encourage anyone who may have concerns to visit the WorkSafe Tasmania website in the first instance or phone 1300 366 322.

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