

January 25, 2019

Trustee Laura Patrick and CRD Director Gary Holman, Co-Chairs, SSIWPA

Cc: Islands Trust Chair, Peter Luckham, Trustee Peter Grove

Dear Laura and Gary:

We have yet to receive a substantive reply to our repeated request for a thorough review of SSIWPA activities as well as for an inquiry into the exorbitant fees paid to the SSIWPA Coordinator - an individual who, in spite of how glowingly she was originally represented by the former SSIWPA Chair, appears to have had no qualifications in the water management field. (See letters to you of December **19**, 2018 and January **04**, 2019.) These issues raise questions as to the use of public monies for activities now widely recognised to have had little or no merit, and paid in large part to an ostensibly unqualified individual (judging not only from the apparent lack of professional qualifications, but also from the amateurish quality of the output).

You have had our explicit concerns before you for now some two months. We have asked for an update on what you are doing or planning to do on this file but we have yet to receive a reply, only a belated acknowledgement of receipt or our request. At this point, both of you as Co-Chairs of SSIWPA as well as the Trust have all the relevant information, and have the responsibility to follow through in a thorough, transparent, and conclusive manner.

We have emphasised that the views expressed in those letters are not a matter of generic “opinion” from the public: they are professional judgements. We have also stressed that these views are widely shared by others senior scientists, both on- and off-island, who have in-depth knowledge of the SSIWPA situation. The concerns raised have never been refuted. Rather, those with whom we have shared our concerns (including former Trustees and senior scientists) have written or spoken to us, wholeheartedly in agreement. Further, when it comes to justification for Coordinator fees, people were generally shocked to learn of the fees paid. The lack of relevant background, the low-level tasks performed, and the amateurish output, would not in our view (and those of others) come close to justifying those rates. This is not a matter of checking that hours billed correspond to disbursements. It is a matter of justification for the rates established in the first place, given previous employment history, lack of relevant background and apparent lack of open competition.

Until these concerns are thoroughly investigated at arms length and responsibly addressed with details made publicly available, they stand—and cast a shadow not only on the past but also on the future of SSIWPA. An investigation should also address the question of potential restitution of public monies. We trust that you are taking these concerns seriously, but we are still awaiting your word to us that you are prepared to undertake a responsible, thorough investigation of the matter. Until this is fully resolved, we feel that it would be irresponsible, unfair and not transparent to the public to go forward with another requisition for SSIWPA.

Sincerely,

David J. Rapport and Luisa Maffi