BAC-BR-18471

Professor Euan M Wallace AM
Secretary
Department of Health

50 Lonsdale Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Secretary

**STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH’S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REGULATION AND COMPLIANCE LEGIONELLA TEAM**

I am pleased to provide you with my expectations for the Department of Health’s (the department) Legionella team to guide the regulator’s business planning processes.

In my portfolio as Minister for Health, I administer a range of Acts and regulations designed to promote wellbeing and to protect the health of the Victorian community. This includes reducing the burden of legionella-related harm and illness.

As Minister for Health, I am responsible for administering the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008,* (the Act) designed to promote and protect public health and wellbeing in Victoria. This guidance should be read in the context of the objectives, obligations and functions outlined in this Act. This guidance should also be read in the context of any other legislative and non-legislative obligations on the Legionella team.

Based on consultation with department about the government’s priorities and emerging risks, my expectations for the Legionella team are as follows.

* Continue containing outbreaks of Legionnaires’ disease by ensuring there is active investigation, monitoring of compliance and, where necessary, enforcement of the requirements of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.*
* Fully implement new licensing software which will encompass application and notification transactions required by the *Public Health & Wellbeing Act 2008* for cooling tower systems.
* Continue to consult with key stakeholders about legionella risk management to ensure that both the regulator and the stakeholders are aware of developments that may impact on safety.

In addition, I expect all regulators in the health portfolio to commit to and action:

* Contributing to health, wellbeing, and safety outcomes for Aboriginal people and the advancement of Aboriginal self-determination.
* Climate change adaptation and enhancing health system resilience through the improvement of environmental sustainability.

I request the department’s Legionella team to incorporate these expectations into their business plans and include milestones for when the team will meet these expectations, and report on progress. The business plans should also include appropriate milestones to review the content of this letter and to advise me when it needs to be updated or renewed. At any time, I may request that you report on meeting my expectations or issue a new statement of expectations letter.

I further request the department’s Legionella team to undertake a light touch review of the expectations in this letter as part of their annual reporting obligations and to advise me if there are any refinements they would recommend.

I look forward to the Legionella team working continuously towards achieving best practice in the administration and enforcement of regulation.

Yours sincerely

**The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP**

 1 / 7 / 2023