

**From:** [Smith, Pete \(Heritage\)](#)  
**To:** [Kathryn Lambert \(DPIPWE\) \(Kathryn.Lambert@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au\)](#); [Ben Goodsir \(DPIPWE\) \(Ben.Goodsir@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from Greens Leader, Cassy O'Connor MP | National Trust  
**Date:** Monday, 14 October 2019 4:13:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [SKM\\_C45819101414020.pdf](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Urgent QTB requested ..

Pete

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**From:** Reid, Anthony (DPaC) <Anthony.Reid@dpac.tas.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 14 October 2019 4:11 PM  
**To:** Smith, Pete (Heritage) <Pete.Smith@heritage.tas.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from Greens Leader, Cassy O'Connor MP | National Trust

Hi Pete – as discussed – this will be coming through formally for a response, but can we please have a very brief QTB to cover off given the timing.

Many thanks,  
A.

RTI-DL-RELEASE-DPIPWE



Greens Leader  
Member for Clark

Monday, 14 October 2019

The Hon. Peter Gutwein MP  
Minister for the Environment, Parks and Heritage  
Level 91, 15 Murray Street  
Hobart TAS 7000

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads 'Peter'.

Dear Minister Gutwein,

I am writing to you about the serious concerns that have been raised with the Greens about the large scale sale of antique items donated to the National Trust Tasmania.

We understand 50-100 donated items, such as paintings, ceramics and items of heritage furniture donated over the last 60 years were auctioned at Tulloch Auctions last week.

As you know, the National Trust has been experiencing some issues with governance and financial stability.

We understand the government has provided some interim assistance in this regard, but that is clearly not enough.

For a respected heritage preservation charity to resort to auctioning donated antiques is a sign of financial insecurity in the best case and desperation at the worst.

I am writing to raise the concerns of many Tasmanians, and in the hope that your government will ensure, that while last week's auction went ahead, it won't happen again.

As you are aware, there are two delegated representatives from DPIPWE on the National Trust board. Are you also able to confirm they had no knowledge of the auction?

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

A grey rectangular box redacting the signature of Cassy O'Connor.

**Cassy O'Connor MP**  
Leader of the Tasmanian Greens  
Greens Heritage spokesperson

**Scandrett, Alison (DPIPWE)**

---

**From:** Wilson, Deidre (DPIPWE)  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 October 2019 1:27 PM  
**To:** Brennan, Warwick (DPIPWE)  
**Cc:** Smith, Pete (Heritage); Goodsir, Ben (DPIPWE)  
**Subject:** National Trust  
**Attachments:** M556788\_SKM\_C45819101414020 (0).pdf; M556788\_Ministerial Gutwein Prepared Reply.docx; M556788\_Ministerial Gutwein Coversheet.docx

Deidre Wilson  
**Deputy Secretary (Corporate, Heritage and Lands)**

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment  
Level 2, Marine Board Building  
**p:** 03 6165 3135 | **m:** 0439 308 232  
**e:** [deidre.wilson@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:deidre.wilson@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au)

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RTI-DL-RELEASED-DPIPWE

Peter Gutwein MP  
**TREASURER**  
**MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND HERITAGE**

**Ministerial Number:** MINI9/27734  
**Doc ONE ID Number:** M556788

**STATUS:**  
**CRITICAL DATE:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cabinet / Executive Council / PLP Paper / Legislative Amendments
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minute to Minister
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Prepared reply for correspondence</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing note
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

**SUBJECT: LETTER FROM GREENS LEADER, CASSY O'CONNOR MP,  
NATIONAL TRUST**

**DIVISION COMMENTS:**

<b>MINISTER'S OFFICE –</b>	Please return signed package to DPIPWE Ministerial Officer for distribution of package material. Do not post/distribute the package.
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BEN GOODSIR  
**ACTING GENERAL MANAGER**  
**NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE DIVISION**

**MINISTERIAL UNIT COMMENTS:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Emailed to Minister's Office	Date Package sent to Minister's Office:
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**MINISTER'S OFFICE COMMENTS:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Document/s Scanned <input type="checkbox"/> Not Scanned
<b>Other Comments:</b>	

**Treasurer**  
**Minister for the Environment, Parks and Heritage**

Level 9 15 Murray Street HOBART TAS 7000 Australia  
Ph: +61 3 6165 7670



Ms Cassy O'Connor MP  
Leader of the Tasmanian Greens  
Greens Heritage Spokesperson  
Member for Clark  
Parliament House  
HOBART TAS 7000

01 NOV 2019

Dear Ms O'Connor

Thank you for your letter regarding the National Trust and questions raised about the disposal of objects owned by the Trust.

I am advised that the National Trust has been engaged in a formal process of deaccessioning objects held at Clarendon House over the past three years. As part of this process, the Trust has released a number of objects to Tulloch's Auctions.

The Trust has advised that the objects in question do not have provenance to Clarendon or its former owners.

I am advised the deaccession process has relied on reputable heritage professionals, experienced in managing movable heritage, who assessed the significance and records for each object to confirm their provenance and heritage value.

This process reflects the Trust's Deaccession Policy, which I understand is consistent with standard processes that apply across the small museums and collections sector.

Thank you for raising your concerns with me.

Yours sincerely,

  
Peter Gutwein MP  
Minister for the Environment, Parks and Heritage

**From:** [Smith, Pete \(Heritage\)](#)  
**To:** [Anthony Reid \(anthony.reid@dpac.tas.gov.au\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Ben Goodsir \(DPIPWE\) \(Ben.Goodsir@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au\)](#); [Kathryn Lambert \(DPIPWE\) \(Kathryn.Lambert@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au\)](#)  
**Subject:** URGENT QTB - M556185\_National Trust Assets.docx  
**Date:** Monday, 14 October 2019 5:32:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [M556185\\_National Trust Assets.docx](#)  
**Importance:** High

---

Hi Anthony

Here's the QTB as requested. Given the urgency, I have emailed it to you as our standard procedure allows, but it will also be forward

Regards

Pete

**Pete Smith, Director**

Heritage Tasmania, Natural and Cultural Heritage Division  
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE)

Level 8, 59 Liverpool Street, Hobart | GPO Box 618, Hobart TAS 7001  
(03) 616 53700 | 1300 850 332 | 0427 826 257 | [www.heritage.tas.gov.au](http://www.heritage.tas.gov.au)

ed in the usual way.

Pete

RTI-DL-RELEASED-DPIPWE

**Scandrett, Alison (DPIPWE)**

---

**From:** Smith, Pete (Heritage)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 October 2019 10:22 AM  
**To:** Goodsir, Ben (DPIPWE)  
**Subject:** RE: do we want to say this?

 Thanks.

Pete

---

**From:** Goodsir, Ben (DPIPWE) <Ben.Goodsir@dpipwe.tas.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 October 2019 9:58 AM  
**To:** Smith, Pete (Heritage) <Pete.Smith@heritage.tas.gov.au>  
**Subject:** do we want to say this?

The National Trust is a statutory authority established under its own Act, the National Trust Act 2006. The Board is responsible undertaking relevant functions and activities in line with the Act and the policies of the Trust. I have been advised that in relation to the sale assets the Trust has complied with all relevant obligations, and that due process has been followed.

Ben Goodsir  
Director  
Natural Heritage  
0429414401

RTI-DL-RELEASE-DPIPWE

**Smith, Pete (Heritage)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]@nationaltrusttas.org.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 October 2019 1:23 PM  
**To:** Smith, Pete (Heritage)  
**Cc:** Matthew Smithies  
**Subject:** Briefing Note  
**Attachments:** Briefing Note - Clarendon Deaccession - 15Oct19.pdf

Dear Pete

Please find attached Briefing Note, as discussed with Matthew.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Executive Administrative Officer



Runnymede | Clarendon | Hobart Convict Penitentiary | Franklin House | Home Hill | Oak Lodge | The Old Umbrella Shop | Penghana | Mt Lyell Mine Managers Office | Latrobe Court House Museum | The Australian Fly Fishing Museum | The Tasmanian Heritage Festival | Heritage Advocacy | Heritage Tourism | Heritage Conservation Appeals Program | Education Programs | Venue Hire | Member Programs | Heritage Volunteering



National Trust Tasmania is an active member of the International National Trusts Organisation (INTO)

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**Smith, Pete (Heritage)**

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**From:** Goodsir, Ben (DPIPWE)  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 October 2019 1:44 PM  
**To:** Smith, Pete (Heritage); Brennan, Warwick (DPIPWE)  
**Cc:** Reid, Kirsty (DPIPWE); Burge, Nadeen L (DPIPWE); Guerzoni, Ester (Heritage)  
**Subject:** RE: Sale of antiques

approved

Ben Goodsir  
Director  
Natural Heritage  
0429414401

**From:** Smith, Pete (Heritage) <Pete.Smith@heritage.tas.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 October 2019 1:25 PM  
**To:** Brennan, Warwick (DPIPWE) <Warwick.Brennan@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au>; Goodsir, Ben (DPIPWE) <Ben.Goodsir@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Reid, Kirsty (DPIPWE) <Kirsty.Reid@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au>; Burge, Nadeen L (DPIPWE) <Nadeen.Burge@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au>; Guerzoni, Ester (Heritage) <Ester.Guerzoni@heritage.tas.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Sale of antiques  
**Importance:** High

Hi Warwick

This issue arose last week. A QTB has been prepared on it, and the following (consistent) lines (once endorsed) can be considered for release.

Ben – Are you happy with these draft lines please ?

Pete



Pete

**From:** Brennan, Warwick (DPIPWE) <Warwick.Brennan@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 October 2019 1:13 PM  
**To:** Smith, Pete (Heritage) <Pete.Smith@heritage.tas.gov.au>; Guerzoni, Ester (Heritage) <Ester.Guerzoni@heritage.tas.gov.au>; Goodsir, Ben (DPIPWE) <Ben.Goodsir@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au>; Wilson, Deidre (DPIPWE) <Deidre.Wilson@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Reid, Kirsty (DPIPWE) <Kirsty.Reid@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au>; Burge, Nadeen L (DPIPWE) <Nadeen.Burge@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Sale of antiques

Hi Pete,

Min office has asked for some lines re antiques from Clarendon House apparently being sold..

Does HT remit cover belongings as well as buildings?

Any advice?

Thanks  
Warwick

---

**From:** Reid, Anthony (DPaC) <Anthony.Reid@dpac.tas.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 October 2019 1:11 PM  
**To:** Brennan, Warwick (DPIPWE) <Warwick.Brennan@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Sale of antiques

Hey mate, can we please have a couple of generic lines to go back on this issue.

Ta  
A.

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

**From:** "Davidson, Ben (DPaC)" <Ben.Davidson@dpac.tas.gov.au>  
**Date:** 18/10/19 12:44 pm (GMT+10:00)  
**To:** "Reid, Anthony (DPaC)" <Anthony.Reid@dpac.tas.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Sale of antiques

Hi mate as discuss,

Did Peter Gunwein, as Heritage Minister, or either of the two govt reps on the National Trust board, know in advance that the NT planned to sell a batch of antiques from Clarendon House at auction? Is the minister satisfied the process has been entirely appropriate?

Filing for tomorrow - [REDACTED]

Ben Davidson  
Sent from my iPhone

**Scandrett, Alison (DPIPWE)**

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**From:** Smith, Pete (Heritage)  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 October 2019 1:54 PM  
**To:** Brennan, Warwick (DPIPWE)  
**Subject:** RE: Sale of antiques

Hi Warwick, sorry one change ...

Pete

---

**From:** Brennan, Warwick (DPIPWE) <Warwick.Brennan@dpipwe.tas.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 18 October 2019 1:47 PM  
**To:** Wilson, Deidre (DPIPWE) <Deidre.Wilson@dpipwe.tas.gov.au>; Whittington, John (DPIPWE) <John.Whittington@dpipwe.tas.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Goodsir, Ben (DPIPWE) <Ben.Goodsir@dpipwe.tas.gov.au>; Smith, Pete (Heritage) <Pete.Smith@heritage.tas.gov.au>; Reid, Kirsty (DPIPWE) <Kirsty.Reid@dpipwe.tas.gov.au>; Burge, Nadeen L (DPIPWE) <Nadeen.Burge@dpipwe.tas.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Sale of antiques

Deidre, John

Min office were after lines on antiques reportedly from Clarendon going up for auction

Pete has provided lines below [REDACTED]

Are you ok with these going to Min office

Thanks  
warwick

RTI-DL-RELEASE-DPIPWE

## Scandrett, Alison (DPIPWE)

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**From:** Gutwein, Peter (DPaC)  
**Sent:** Monday, 21 October 2019 7:08 PM  
**To:** Treasurer Office (DPaC)  
**Cc:** Reid, Anthony (DPaC)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Correspondence from Alison Standen MP  
**Attachments:** image001.png; ATT00001.htm; 191021 - National Trust.pdf; ATT00002.htm

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Jae

A and r please

Peter Gutwein  
Treasurer

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Josh Brown <[josh.brown@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:josh.brown@parliament.tas.gov.au)>  
**Date:** 21 October 2019 at 3:22:37 pm AEDT  
**To:** Peter Gutwein <[peter.gutwein@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:peter.gutwein@parliament.tas.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Correspondence from Alison Standen MP

Good afternoon,

Please find attached correspondence from Alison Standen MP.

Kind regards,

Joshua Brown  
Electorate Officer  
Office of Alison Standen MP  
**Labor Member for Franklin**  
Opposition Whip  
Shadow Minister for Housing  
Shadow Minister for Climate Change  
Shadow Minister for Environment, Parks & Heritage

**a:** PO Box 348, Kingston TAS 7050  
**p:** 03 6212 2361  
**e:** [josh.brown@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:josh.brown@parliament.tas.gov.au)  
[www.taslabor.com](http://www.taslabor.com)

# Alison Standen MP

Labor Member for Franklin

Hon Peter Gutwein MP  
Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage  
Level 5  
4 Salamanca Place  
HOBART TAS 7000

By email: [Peter.Gutwein@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Gutwein@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Minister Gutwein

I have received representations from concerned members of the community regarding the alleged sale of collections from National Trust properties at Tullochs Auctions in Launceston on or around 9 October 2019, including items from the collection at the nationally significant historic Clarendon House.

I understand that the National Trust museum collection is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in Tasmania after the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) and Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG).

Since its establishment in 1960, the National Trust has operated using the generosity of volunteers and donors. In recent years funding from the State Government has assisted with operating costs, and I understand that you are responsible for Ministerial and Departmental appointments to the Board.

My constituents appreciate that the disposal of unwanted collection items, known as deaccessioning, is 'part and parcel' of collection management.

However, several questions arise following the sale as to whether proper procedure and consultation regarding heritage management protocol was undertaken – in particular:

1. What items were auctioned and what process was undertaken to select those items?
2. Were original donors contacted?
3. Was the disposal of collection material advertised for public comment?
4. Was the National Trust Board part of the decision to dispose of the collection?
5. How much money was raised from the alleged sale at Tullochs Auctions on or around 9 October 2019?

Shop 86, Channel Court Shopping Centre, KINGSTON, TAS 7050

P.O. Box 348, KINGSTON, TAS 7050

Ph. (03) 6212 2361

e. [alison.standen@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:alison.standen@parliament.tas.gov.au)

f. @AlisonStandenMP

t. @alison\_standen

[www.taslabor.com](http://www.taslabor.com)

Tasmanian  
**Labor** 

*Putting people first*



6. Was a significance assessment undertaken before material was put up for auction?
7. Did the National Trust lodge a works application or seek an exemption from the Tasmanian Heritage Council to remove the collection material from the heritage listed houses?
8. Were National Trust members advised of the sale prior to the auction date?

I would appreciate it if you could provide me with advice regarding these questions that are outstanding following the alleged sale at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Alison Standen MP  
**Shadow Minister for Heritage**

21 October 2019

RTI-DL-RELEASE-DPIPWE



Tasmania  
Explore the possibilities

**Hon Peter Gutwein MP**

Level 9, 15 Murray, Hobart 7000

Treasurer

Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage

**MEMO REFERRAL**

**TO:**

**FROM:**

Ministerial TRIM number    MIN19/29033

Subject                            EPH - Shadow Minister for Environment Parks and Heritage - Alison Standen  
 MP - Community Concerns re Sale of Collections by National Trust at Tulloch's  
 Auction - Deaccessioning

Author                              Alison Standen MP

Date on Correspondence    21/10/2019 at 1:45 PM

Date Received                 28/10/2019

<input type="checkbox"/>	Correspondence from the general public	10	Working days	___/___/19
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Correspondence from Parliamentarians	3	Working days	3/10/19
<input type="checkbox"/>	Correspondence from Key Stakeholders	7	Working days	___/___/19
<input type="checkbox"/>	Correspondence from the Premier's Office	5	Working days	___/___/19

This correspondence has/has not been acknowledged.

**ACTION REQUIRED**

- Prepared Reply for Minister
- Prepared Reply for Minister with copy for Premier/Other Minister  
Referral memo required Yes / No
- Draft Prepared Reply for Premier / Other Minister  
Referral memo required Yes / No
- Direct reply from the Department on behalf of the Minister
- Issues Brief
- Minute to the Minister
- Event Documentation  
(Speech Notes, Media Release, Briefing, Runsheets)
- Appropriate Action
- Referral to other Minister for Action
- For Information
- No Action Required
- Other Comments

*Before end of week please*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Peter Gutwein MP  
**TREASURER**  
**MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND HERITAGE**

**Ministerial Number:** MINI9/29033  
**Doc ONE ID Number:** M562472

**STATUS:**  
**CRITICAL DATE:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cabinet / Executive Council / PLP Paper / Legislative Amendments
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minute to Minister
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prepared reply for correspondence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing note
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

**SUBJECT: MINI9/29033: GUTWEIN - SHADOW MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT PARKS AND HERITAGE - ALISON STANDEN MP - COMMUNITY CONCERNS RE SALE OF COLLECTIONS BY NATIONAL TRUST AT TULLOCH'S AUCTION - DEACCESSIONING**

**DIVISION COMMENTS:**

<b>MINISTER'S OFFICE –</b>	Please return signed package to DPIPWE Ministerial Officer for distribution of package material. Do not post/distribute the package.
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LOUISE WILSON  
**GENERAL MANAGER**  
**NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**MINISTERIAL UNIT COMMENTS:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Emailed to Minister's Office	Date Package sent to Minister's Office:
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**MINISTER'S OFFICE COMMENTS:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Document/s Scanned
	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Scanned
<b>Other Comments:</b>	

**Treasurer  
Minister for the Environment, Parks and Heritage**

Level 9 15 Murray Street HOBART TAS 7000 Australia  
Ph: +61 3 6165 7670



Ms Alison Standen MP  
Shadow Minister for Heritage  
Labor Member for Franklin  
Parliament House  
HOBART TAS 7000

04 NOV 2019

Dear Ms Standen

Thank you for your letter regarding the National Trust and questions raised about the disposal of objects owned by the Trust.

I am advised that the National Trust has been engaged in a formal process of deaccessioning objects held at Clarendon House over the past three years. As part of this process, the Trust has released a number of objects to Tulloch's Auctions.

The Trust has advised that the objects in question do not have provenance to Clarendon or its former owners.

I am advised the deaccession process has relied on reputable heritage professionals, experienced in managing movable heritage, who assessed the significance and records for each object to confirm their provenance and heritage value.

This process reflects the Trust's Deaccession Policy, which I understand is consistent with standard processes that apply across the small museums and collections sector.

The Trust's Managing Director, Matthew Smithies, can be contacted in relation to operational matters such as the steps the Trust undertook in implementing its Deaccession Policy, the level of Trust Board's involvement in this process and consultation with its members and the public. Mr Smithies can be contacted on (03) 6344 6233.

Thank you for raising your concerns with me.

Yours sincerely

  
Peter Gutwein MP  
Minister for the Environment, Parks and Heritage

**Scandrett, Alison (DPIPWE)**

**From:** Louise Wilson [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, 21 October 2019 7:27 PM  
**To:** Smith, Pete (Heritage)  
**Subject:** Fwd: National Trust

Not sure if this has 'hit' you yet?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Philip Mussared [redacted]  
**Date:** 19 October 2019 at 10:45:49 am AEDT  
**To:** louise.wilson [redacted]  
**Subject:** National Trust

Hi Loiuise  
You should be aware of this article in this morning's Australian.

Cheers  
Philip



Trustees, said this meant prior consultation with the public, members and donors or their heirs, and attempts to house the items in other public institutions.

"By giving something to a museum-type organisation, the donor is usually of the firm understanding that this organisation will manage and care for that object long into the future," she said. "There is an expectation of perpetual ownership. Anything that has been removed from a location that has had public benefaction is a destruction of memory for that community."

Former National Trust Tasmania president and life member Lionel Morrell was "shocked" to discover items from Clarendon on sale at Tullochs Auctions in Launceston. Also a past trust national director, he said he was "not at all" convinced there had been an adequate process.

"I don't know who's been consulted — it's been completely secretive," he said. "It was a shock to me to just happen to call into Tullochs one day and find out

Lionel Morrell was "shocked" to discover items from Clarendon on sale at Tullochs Auctions in Launceston. Also a past trust national director, he said he was "not at all" convinced there had been an adequate process.

"I don't know who's been consulted — it's been completely secretive," he said. "It was a shock to me to just happen to call into Tullochs one day and recognise the dining chairs and a drawing room suite."

Trust managing director Matthew Smithies said the items had been in storage for "the past 10 years" and were "low-grade".

He said the items were sent to auction only after a lengthy, "proper" process in line with global practice. "We have followed correct heritage management protocol in every aspect of this," he said. Any funds raised would be used for conservation of the remaining Clarendon collection.

Greens MP Casey O'Connor has written to state Heritage Minister Peter Gutwein questioning what two government representatives on the trust board knew of the sale.

his brother on to continue and university was "cheeky, loved" all the Australia, Brent the Mountain ed basketball a. At univer- is granted two tips. pursued his seasons as an player for niversity. work as an with Enter- arying his art. Angel- Sheriff Troy on Thurs- still on the had been e have a Es, Bend er with us two small beans." Mr

Sent from my iPhone

RTI-DL-RELEASE-DRIIPWE

**From:** [Simpson, Kim \(Heritage\)](#)  
**To:** [Guerzoni, Ester \(Heritage\)](#)  
**Subject:** FYI  
**Date:** Monday, 21 October 2019 9:15:13 AM

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<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/national-trust-selloff-a-betrayal/news-story/bc0e415629f0c063a3a1e7cd59dfd5f8>

**Kim Simpson | Research Officer | Heritage Tasmania**

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & the Environment (DPIPWE)

**www:** [www.heritage.tas.gov.au](http://www.heritage.tas.gov.au)

**a:** Public Buildings, 53 St John Street LAUNCESTON 7250 or GPO Box 618 HOBART 7001

**p:** (03) 6777 2071 or 1300 850 332 (local call cost)

RTI-DL-RELEASE-DPIPWE

# Alison Standen MP

Labor Member for Franklin

Hon Peter Gutwein MP  
Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage

By email: [Peter.Gutwein@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Gutwein@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Minister Gutwein

I am writing to raise concerns regarding the circumstances surrounding the National Trust's sale of a colonial artwork attributed to William Charles Piguenit titled Lake St Clair.

In particular, I would appreciate your consideration and response to the following questions arising from the sale:

- i. Prior to the private sale proceeding, was the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery or Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery approached to acquire/accept the work per standard de-accessioning practice?
- ii. Was a significance assessment using national significance guidelines undertaken to establish the provenance of the artwork? What were the findings of this assessment?
- iii. Were National Trust Tasmania Board members advised or involved in the significance assessment process? And separately, were any Board members involved in the valuation of the work? Did any Board members involved declare a conflict of interest (and if so, did they remove themselves from the decision making process)?
- iv. Was the original donor or their descendants approached regarding the de-accessioning intentions? Did they provide feedback regarding the private sale? and;
- v. Will the government commit to greater transparency of the National Trust as part of the next grant deed? Including making Board minutes and Trust finances available to the public?

Minister, cultural institutions such as the National Trust have a vital role in providing access to Tasmania's cultural heritage. Removing works from public collections denies the community an opportunity to understand our past. Further, Museums rely on the currency of goodwill, and when processes aren't transparent the sector risks losing this goodwill.

I request that you investigate this matter urgently and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Standen MP  
**Shadow Minister for Heritage**

05 November 2019

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